

After Her
Death

By

Lilian Whiting

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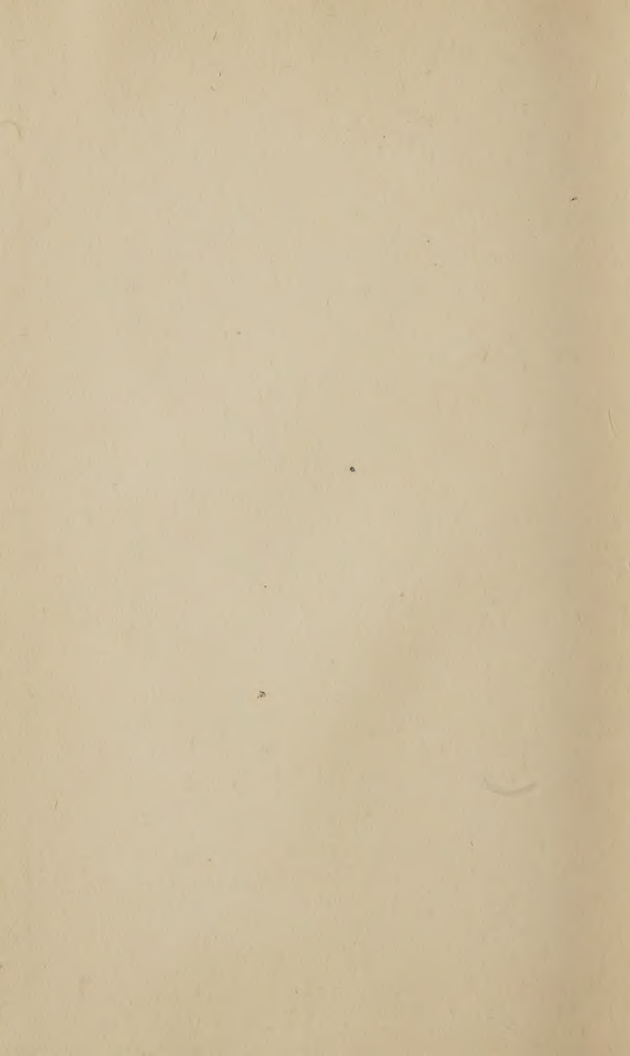
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Luna Vestal



AFTER HER DEATH

The Story of a Summer

This world is not conclusion, —
A sequel lies beyond,
Invisible as music
But positive as sound.

EMILY DICKINSON.



AFTER HER DEATH

The Story of a Summer

BY THE AUTHOR OF

"THE WORLD BEAUTIFUL" (FIRST AND SECOND SERIES)
AND "FROM DREAMLAND SENT"

"The eager fate that carried thee
Took the largest part of me"



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TO
ONE WHOSE PRESENCE IN THE SEEN OR IN THE
UNSEEN WOULD EVER MAKE FOR ME
A "WORLD BEAUTIFUL,"

This Little Story
OF THE SUMMER AFTER HER DEATH
IS TENDERLY INSCRIBED.

"And she the rest will comprehend, will comprehend"

PREFATORY NOTE.

IT has become an open secret that Kate Field (whose portrait appears as the frontispiece) is the friend to whom reference is made in this little record of experiences that have revealed to the writer the truth that it is the change of death which unites friends more closely and perfects every sweet relation.

Hundreds of letters have been received since the first publication of this volume, each asking substantially the same question, Is it true? The reply to all is that it represents the deepest reality.

Miss Field had inspired on the part of the writer one of those rare friendships of absolute devotion, whose trust and truth and tenderness made a kind of consecration of life. Even now this inspiration (the outcome

of the fifteen years of friendship and interest) is felt by the author as the mainspring of effort.

The events connected with Miss Field's death in Honolulu, under strangely romantic and remarkable circumstances, are still so fresh in the minds of all, that this book may have some interest as an indication of her character and the effect of that character upon another. The extraordinary psychic communication established since her death between Miss Field and the writer of this book has attracted much attention from scientific investigators of psychic phenomena. Much of this is of a nature that can be absolutely demonstrated, and in the chapter entitled "The Date in the Ring," in the third series of "THE WORLD BEAUTIFUL" (by the same author), an incontrovertible evidence of the reality of this psychic communion is narrated. One of the leaders of thought in this country wrote of this little volume : —

"But to me the story of the communication from her friend in the spirit world is not the

greatest interest of the book. It is the clear manner in which the author presents what may be called, perhaps, the scientific side of so-called spiritualism, — its progress and development step by step. This is clear and interesting, and to many must seem but a most reasonable growth, evolution, or becoming of a higher development, as the Germans call it."

Three years have passed since this book first appeared, — a period sufficiently long to test the reality of any train of experiences, and a period so full of variety in foreign travel and other changes that any impressions arising from mere emotional fancy would have inevitably faded. But their vital reality has only deepened and increased, and a large proportion of this telepathic communication is so linked with objective events as to make the theory evidentially supported by the outer occurrences. The writer has constantly sought in scientific study for data that would tend to confirm or to negative her belief in this communication between the Seen and the Un-

seen; for if it can exist at all, it is under natural laws which science will discover and formulate.

Mr. Frederic W. H. Myers asserted some ten years ago that discoveries had been made which must gradually revolutionize our whole attitude toward the Unseen World. Since then these discoveries have proceeded in an accelerated ratio.

Professor Lombroso notes that telepathy tends to show that thought is essentially a vibratory energy, and is possibly capable of correlation with other modes of motion. And very recently Tesla has stated his belief that the time would come when the power of thought might produce the action of his new engine, whose force, he believes, can be operated from Sandy Hook against a fleet in Southampton Bay. Here we have the practical scientist's belief that this theory of the nature of thought can be experimentally demonstrated. If thought has such marvellous power as this, shall it not flash from mind to mind across that gulf we call death? In his

great address as President of the British Association of Scientists, given this last September, Sir William Crookes, after dwelling upon scientific discoveries and triumphs, said : —

“These, then, are some of the subjects, weighty and far-reaching, on which my own attention has been chiefly concentrated. Upon one other interest I have not yet touched, — to me the weightiest and the farthest reaching of all. No incident in my scientific career is more widely known than the part I took many years ago in certain psychic researches. Thirty years have passed since I published an account of experiments tending to show that outside a scientific knowledge there exists a force exercised by intelligence differing from the ordinary intelligence common to mortals.”

Again, Sir William Crookes said : —

“And were I now introducing for the first time these inquiries to the world of science, I would choose a starting-point from that of old. It would be well to begin with telepathy ; with

the fundamental law, as I believe it to be, that thoughts and images may be transferred from one mind to another without the agency of the recognized organs of sense,—that knowledge may enter the human mind without being communicated by the recognized organs of sense.”

The essential essence of all that is embraced under the term Spiritualism is telepathy: that communication between spirit and spirit, irrespective of the body; and on this, as the fundamental law, the great English scientist bases all research.

A very recent scientific discovery bearing on this problem is that of a gas named etherion, far lighter than hydrogen and capable of conducting the highest known vibrations. It may be that this is the medium by whose means thought flashes between those in this world and those who have passed through death. There is every reason to believe that the time is not distant when the laws that govern the communication between the Seen and the Unseen shall be discovered and fully

comprehended, and this will aid in the higher development of humanity and will tend to uplift life to the plane of a spiritual drama.

As the poet Tennyson has said : —

“The ghost *in* man, the ghost that once *was* man,
But cannot wholly free itself from man,
Are calling to each other through a dawn
Stronger than earth has ever seen : the day
Is rending, and the voices of the day
Are heard across the voices of the dark.”

THE BRUNSWICK, BOSTON.

September, 1900.

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WHAT LACKS THE SUMMER ?

What lacks the Summer ?

O light and savor,
And message of healing the world above !
Gone is the old-time strength and flavor,
Gone is its old-time peace and love !
Gone is the bloom of the shimmering meadow,
Music of birds, as they sweep and fall, —
All the great world is dim with shadow,
Because no longer mine eyes can see
The eyes that made Summer and life for me, —
And that is all.

MARY ELIZABETH BLAKE.

AFTER HER DEATH.



WHAT LACKS THE SUMMER?

“Star to star vibrates light ! may soul to soul
Strike through a finer element of her own ?”



OUR friendship had always seemed to me one made for heaven rather than for earth ; as of a nature adapted to different conditions from those ordinarily prevailing here ; and after the first bewildering agony — caused by the tidings of her death — was over, I began to realize how that subtle and curiously insistent telepathic communion between us seemed to adjust itself anew and became more clear and intense. But, ah, that first flash of bewildering pain ! Will even eternity be long enough for its remembrance ever to be dimmed ?

It was a June morning in Paris. For two weeks preceding I had been so strangely sad, so desolate and distraught that the days were a problem to me. And why? I could not imagine. Some three weeks previous I had fared forth on that first voyage to foreign lands which always prefigures itself in life as an experience that can never be repeated. Other visits may be as happy, or happier; but there is a thrill in one's first glimpse of Europe that — as Mr. Stoddard sings of that indescribable sensation that “follows youth with flying feet” — is one that “never comes again,” whatever better and finer things, perchance, may come. The voyage had been an ideal one, full, to me, of a curious uplift of feeling that suddenly changed, the day we landed, to a sadness and desolation inexpressible, and for which no adequate cause could be even faintly conjectured. No letters or cablegram of depressing nature had reached me; and still, on landing at Liverpool after the happy voyage on the good steamer “Pavonia,” I was absolutely unable to fulfil a previously arranged

programme of proceeding to London by a *détour* to Stratford-on-Avon and Oxford, with leisurely loitering, and could only take the first train to the great metropolis, trusting that its rush of life might exorcise the strange spell that was flung over me.

This swift change of feeling from exhilaration of spirits to an unutterable desolation was initiated by an experience for which I can suggest no explanation; but the occurrence was one which leaves an impress that will forever stand as a crisis hour in life. It was this.

On our last night on shipboard we had enjoyed the usual merry time of the "Captain's dinner" with its gala and laughter, and had retired with the happy anticipations of landing at Liverpool in the early morning. I had been asleep for some hours when, suddenly, as if by an electric shock, I found myself standing on the floor of my stateroom, with the quiver of a current of electricity pervading me from head to feet as if I grasped a strongly charged battery. I turned on the electric light and looked at my watch. It was nearly four in

the morning. The words I had just heard — not with the outer ear, but with some inner sense — vibrated in the air. For I had seemed to see standing, I knew not where, three forms, which, by the same inexplicable inner sense, I knew were in the ethereal, not the natural, world: I seemed, too, to know that one of these had but just entered that world, and I heard her say, in tones of mingled joy, amazement, incredulity, and triumph, “Is *this* all? It is all over!”

Then I said to myself: “Some one I know has just died, — some one whose death will make the greatest difference to me.” Yet, strangely, I did not think of *her*, — in whose presence or absence the entire world always changed to me, — she with whom I constantly lived in thought, whether we were together or whether half the world stretched its space between us. If this were a creation of fiction and not a narration of actual fact, I should record that my first thought was of her; that I recognized it was her voice that thrilled through my dreams, and startled me, with a

force that fairly shot me from a sound slumber to find myself standing, — it would be a more rhythmic sequence; but this is not an imaginative tale: it is the record of an actual experience. I did not think of her, and it could almost be added that it was the only moment since I had known the happiness of meeting her that she was not in my thoughts. Almost at once, too, I again fell into a deep sleep, which was incongruous with the startled shock, and slept so soundly that the pretty stewardess was quite discouraged in her attempts to induce me to rise at the necessary hour for leaving the ship. But on awakening in the morning that dread desolation, unanalyzed and unaccountable, settled down over me. Had I been shipwrecked and left alone on an island in the sea, I could not have been more — and I fancy I should have been less — desolate. For it is invariably true that when all of the visible fails us, the invisible is potent to protect and comfort. It was in vain that I attempted to combat this apparently idle depression. It could not be reasoned away; but, as I said, it was so

overpowering that I abandoned perforce the anticipated tour to the home and haunts of the bard of Avon, and the visit to classic Oxford, which had been one of the most prized anticipations, and went directly to London.

Still, the sense of unutterable desolation persisted, and the six weeks planned for London were reduced to six days, when, in a kind of desperate attempt to break the spell, I departed for Paris. While in London nothing had so enchained me as the stately, solemn beauty of Westminster Abbey. And perhaps the most impressive thing in the old abbey was not the majesty of sculptured marbles, or even the marvellous magnificence of the Chapel of Henry VII., but, instead, the little old Chapel of St. Faith. It is a very small one, of rude stone, — ceiling, walls, and floor, — lying between the chapter-house and the south transept. Over the old altar is a faded picture in which one dimly traces the outline of St. Faith above the crucifixion. On the table below are a crucifix and two tall candles, and on the altar a Latin inscription which runs, in translation : —

“From the burden of my sore transgression, sweet Virgin, deliver me: make my peace with God and blot out mine offence.”

An inscription at the entrance enjoins that no word shall ever be spoken within it; that it shall be kept solely for silent prayer. A tablet on one wall records that by the wish of Dean Stanley the body of Bishop McIlvaine of Ohio rested in this chapel during the journey from Florence to the United States, and that his life and work “helped to draw together England and America in one communion of faith and love.” Something in the atmosphere of the place sustained and soothed me in an exceptional way, and I found myself daily kneeling at the old altar in the silence, with perpetual prayer and thought for *her*, though I did not realize that there was hardly more than the usual tender turning to her, and perhaps there was not. All my life, so to speak, had been so magnetized toward her that this feeling could only increase with the increased fulness and depth of years.

For our friendship, on my part, had really

begun long years before she dawned upon my vision. She was so richly endowed that even in her earliest youth her powers expressed themselves in a way that the fame of a great and gifted woman crowned her radiant girlhood. Taken as a young girl to Florence, where she studied music under Garcia ; where the poet Landor taught her Latin, and himself wrote verses to her ; where she studied the languages, and met and loved Mrs. Browning, who often kept the gifted girl for days as her guest at Casa Guidi, — here in Florence she found her native air of art and inspiration. It was the atmosphere to which she was born, and it was a part of the divine destiny of her noble life that in her beautiful youth she should have come under these marvellous influences. It was here she met George Eliot, who was strongly attracted by the brilliant girl, and who gave her wise counsel and strong stimulus.

Her rich gifts and these felicitous circumstances conspired to allow her to win early fame in the world of letters ; and while I was still a child, treading the quiet ways of a coun-

try home, her literary work touched the spring of enthusiasm, and I learned to watch for it and love it until it became the central interest in my life. My day-dreams were of her, this radiant figure out in an unknown and enchanted world, — Florence and Rome and Paris; and at night I would lie awake, wishing that by some magic her picture would flash upon me through the darkness. The years sped on, and she dominated my girlhood. To my girlish fancy, as later to the perception of my womanhood, she seemed to impersonate the genius of nobleness.

It must have been a dozen years that I thus thought of her and dreamed of her afar, before the inscrutable ways of destiny at last brought me within the horizon of her life; and from the hour of our first meeting the hope to so live as to grow less and less unworthy to be *her* friend became to me the dominant note in life. Nor was it a narrow, human limitation. For I could not but recognize — though far too feebly and too crudely — how great was the quality of her spirit.

“ 'T is human fortune's happiest height to be
A spirit melodious, lucid, poised, and whole :
Second, in order of felicity,
I hold it, to have walked with such a soul.”

And so, long before we met in the visible world, the spiritual link was forged which finally drew me to her on earth, and which, let me reverently trust, will ere long bring me again to that dear presence by which all my days and dreams are still companioned. The entire story of our friendship is simply a story of spiritual destiny. I always saw her, not in the mere visible and tangible setting and scenery of the moment, but in what I may perhaps venture to term the ethereal atmosphere, — in a world partly denoted in these lines of a little *Impromptu* that I once wrote to her, though it was afterward published under a veiled title. The lines ran : —

I do not find you in the outer life.
Always I see you in those gardens fair
With starry jasmine shining in your hair,
Apart from noise and fret of daily life
With which the day and daylight world are rife.
Always I see you, Love, in regions where
Immortal Lander trod, great spirits came,

Whose fire of genius set your own aflame,
Your girlish voice inspiring loud acclaim.
Always I see you in those gardens where
Music and fragrance linger on the air;
Where she "who sang of Italy" still lies
Beneath the glory of the starlit skies,
Whose beauty held her in a glad surprise.
Flower of all Cities! City of all Flowers!
'T is there you linger in the charmed hours;
With jasmine in your hair I see you stand
Fair in the grace of that Enchanted Land.

And so it was that our friendship always seemed to me as made for heaven rather than for earth; and so it is that since she has entered into the invisible world it has assumed a power and a proportion and an unmistakable and marvellous influence over events which must be my explanation of the little record of this story. For the time has now come, in the evolution of social progress, when all that tends to throw any light upon the real relations between the Seen and the Unseen is of common interest to us all, and in mutual comparison of experiences we may hope to evolve actual knowledge of the conditions of the life just beyond the present.

FROM INMOST DREAMLAND.

Thy voice from inmost dreamland calls;
The wastes of sleep thou makest fair;
Bright o'er the ridge of darkness falls
The cataract of thy hair.

The morn renews its golden birth;
Thou with the vanquished night dost fade,
And leav'st the ponderable earth
Less real than thy shade.

WILLIAM WATSON.

FROM INMOST DREAMLAND.

“Less yearning for the friendship fled
Than some strong bond which is to be.”



AS I have said, I had long had a girl's dreams of her as an enchanting figure out in a gay, glad world yet unrevealed to me. It was as vague and unreal as the ethereal world can seem to any one here amid the things of sense. When, at last, I came within the charmed circle of her life, she became to me the magnetic centre. So that when, on that June day in Paris, as the sunny radiance of the morning flooded the Champs Élysées with balm and bloom and radiant energy, I learned from a cablegram that she had already been for more than two weeks in the life beyond ; that her death had occurred the very day that I landed at Liverpool and had been given that thrilling

vision of my last night on the steamer ; when I realized that her death occurred on that far away island in the Pacific where there is no cable communication, and that it had taken the two weeks for the tidings to reach the United States, — in that first moment of blind, bewildering agony there was little of conscious reflection or thought. The morning was as fair as a dream of Paradise. The song of birds came from the leafy foliage in the Champs Élysées. The crystal play of the fountains in the Place de la Concorde gleamed in a thousand iridescent hues in the golden sunshine. The little garden into which I wandered was fragrant with blossoms.

And *she* had gone !

“ Oh, alone, alone, —

Not troubling any in heaven, or any on earth, —

I stood there in the garden and looked up

The deaf blue sky that brings the roses out

On such June mornings.”

Reading time backward, like the Chaldeans, many things began to grow clear. The voice and the vision that thrilled me like a strong

current of electricity, in that last night on the "Pavonia," were now explained. It was *she* whom I had seen as she entered the unknown world; it was *her* voice that I had heard in that tone of mingled amazement, incredulity, and exaltation. There was to me a solemn impressiveness in this which seemed, in that moment of supremest pain, to say, "Be still, and know that I am God."

On this day there began for me a summer of either very curious coincidences, or of convincing spiritual realities in daily experience.

The unaccountable sadness and desolation that had been over me was coincident with the date of her death. There could be no reasonable doubt that my own subliminal self had received from her the tidings of her passing to the life beyond, and that while the lower consciousness did not record any definite message, it did receive the forcible impression of a great loss, a great sadness. Such an experience is not a matter of merely personal or private interest. There is nothing of more immediate concern to all humanity at the

present time than the worth or worthlessness of psychic experiences.

It was not, I reflected, any more mysterious that my spirit and hers should have met as she left the mortal body than that, as a child, my spirit should have been so attracted by her: and that through all my girlhood, in the years before we ever met, she should yet have dominated my life. There was no human means of learning anything that day beyond the mere fact flashed under the sea by the cablegram. So I went alone to my room. I called on her to come. "I, too," I said, "am a spirit, though still dwelling in the physical world. Come to me; come and tell me what this means!" I implored her. In a few moments that same mysterious thrill, which I can only describe as like contact with an electric current, ran through me. I seemed to perceive that she came and stood by me, one hand resting lightly on my shoulder. I saw nothing visible; I felt nothing tangible; I heard nothing audible; and still, in some way, I seemed to actually know that she

stood by me, — that her hand was on me, and that she answered in these words: “It was the only possible solution.” Each word fell upon my mind distinctly, yet far apart, and as if it were a great effort to impress each one. Though there was no audible sound, yet no spoken words were ever more distinct. There seemed to me no room to doubt that this was telepathic communion, and already the truth of telepathy is as fully established by science as that of telegraphy. Telepathy is the language of the spirit; audible speech is the language of physical organs.

The unseen world began to grow very real to me. Often, indeed, had I heard her speak of these mysteries, and her interest in psychical research was strong. “I look to see science prove Immortality,” she once remarked, and the words are full of that prophetic power with which her remarkable force of insight always invested her. That science must prove immortality is the message of to-day. For there is a distinct and recognizable approach of the two worlds to each other, — the seen and

the unseen. Each is flashing its signals, and the failure or the delay in a more universal recognition of these on our part is simply in not realizing that this communion must be attained through our own higher spiritual life, and not demanded or expected as mere phenomena. We have demanded that the unseen shall manifest themselves to us, — visibly, audibly, to our material senses. But while there is undoubtedly much of this phenomena, it is, at best, only begging the question. The only true, permanent, and satisfactory way to live in companionship and in communion with those who have passed through the experience of death is to live in the spirit, — to live, now and here, every day and every hour, the spiritual life. And what is this life? It is love, joy, peace. It is infinite and unfailing good-will ; it is abounding love ; it is meekness, and patience, and belief ; it is energy in all endeavor ; it is in the constant desire and effort to so live that, in the words of Phillips Brooks, “if every man lived as you do, this earth would be heaven.” The problem of

communion with those who have passed into the unseen lies with us rather than with them ; it lies in our own purification and exaltation of life ; for this alone offers the atmosphere — the aura — into which the higher spirits can enter.

The law of evolution is not limited to action on the physical world alone. It does not cease to operate with the attainment of physical perfection. For man is primarily a spiritual being, and only incidentally and transiently an inhabitant of the physical world. That is a mere phase, rudimental and experimental in its nature. His physical body is an instrument, by means of which, for a time, he is enabled to relate himself to the physical world. Here he does not so much live as begin to *learn how to live*.

The tragedy of life would be in its lost opportunities, were it not that a lost opportunity, when fully recognized too late for its pursuance here, is there held to await him who shall be worthy of it on the plane of life just beyond. The friendships that seem to have missed

their possible perfection here, to have failed in what each at heart desired to realize, await another experience to which each shall come with finer preparation.

“’T is not within the force of fate
The fate-conjoined to separate.”

Whether one shall again take up his intercourse with the friend who has passed before him into the unseen, depends on the daily life he lives now and here. The meeting beyond is in no sense a matter of arbitrary and mysterious destiny. It depends solely upon the sustaining and the growth of mutual understanding between the two lives, — the one in the seen, the other in the unseen. The future meeting is a matter of condition, of sympathy. It is as crude to imagine that all who die necessarily meet, as to suppose that all Americans who go to London or Paris inevitably meet there and become acquainted. Whether they do or not depends solely on the conditions that produce, or fail to produce, the attractions that draw people together.

Man being primarily a spiritual being, his own real progress or real success in life is as he so realizes himself. The life after death is fast coming to be no longer to us a speculation or a superstition, but a very real fact with which to deal, — a phase of the near future for which to daily prepare. And the only true preparation for the life after death is to live nobly the life before death.

There seems to me no doubt that her prophetic words to the effect that science will yet prove Immortality are almost on the eve of fulfilment.

Psychic science is conquering new territory ; discerning more and more of truth constantly. It is discovering that the life just beyond this is not so great a change from this as we have fancied ; that there is no such thing as a “ disembodied ” spirit. Death is simply the separation of the finer ethereal body from the outer and coarser one. The new form is like the old, save that it is subtle, magnetic, and it is far more the direct reflection of the spiritual nature. The unseen

world in which it now begins another life is as real, — far more real, indeed, — than this, and is formed of far more potent forces. This world exists all about us in space. To become cognizant of it depends on condition alone. To the blind the world we live in is unseen, because the blind man has not the organ that corresponds with his environment; when the spiritual world about us is undiscovered, it is because we have not yet developed those latent faculties which would enable us to perceive it. The spiritual life is

“built of furtherance and pursuing :
Not of spent deeds, but of doing.”

As we live the life of the spirit, we are companioned by the friends in the unseen, in the simple and natural way that attends all true relations of mutual sympathy.

PAST THE MORNING STAR.

I look to see science prove Immortality.

KATE FIELD.

“Such sweet communion had been ours
I prayed that it might never end.
My prayer is more than answered; now,
I have an angel for my friend.”

PAST THE MORNING STAR.

“ Past midnight, — past the morning star.”

“  T was the only possible solution ! ”
These words remained with me. There was in them a significance that cannot be here translated, but I felt it and perceived its truth. Failing health and other attendant circumstances made it imperative that she should be released from the conditions here and permitted to enter new ones. Yet, a few days later, when I had searched the London papers for any added tidings and failed to find them, hope revived, and the possibility asserted itself that the cablegram had been some dreadful mistake. In a way I *knew* this was not true, and still, as a little escape from the intolerable pain, I almost sought to deceive myself into a moment's respite. I was standing before the mirror

dressing for dinner, in a half-blind relief at the words of a friend who, thinking only of how to comfort me a little, had just asserted her strong belief that the news must have been a mistake and that mistakes did sometimes occur in cablegrams, — I was half in hope and half in despair trying to reinforce myself on this meagre possibility, — when again I was suddenly conscious of her presence: she stood before me and though, as before, I saw nothing visible, yet I was as conscious of her form, of the expression of her countenance, even of her dress, as I could have been of any friend who had come in. And again distinctly her words, though not audible, fell on my inner sense.

“It is true,” ran the words, calling me by name; “it is true, and you must believe it.” Then I knew, though I cannot explain how or why, that the reference was to her death; she had seen how I was trying, for the moment, to delude myself with a false hope, and with that passion for truth at any cost, and however unpalatable, that always pre-eminently charac-

terized her, she had been enabled to approach me nearly enough to tell me this. The impressiveness of the presence which I perceived, which I felt with a vividness and a force never experienced in any meeting here, is beyond the power of words to describe. As I went down and joined my friends at dinner, Madame, my hostess, again exclaimed, "I do believe you will find that cable to be a mistake." "No, Madame," I replied; "it was not a mistake; it is true."

"But how do you know?" she rejoined in surprise; "I thought you were almost convinced, since you did not find it in the London papers, that it was not true."

How did I know, indeed? Ah, I could not tell her how; yet I *did* know as well as I do at the moment of writing this, that my hope was an idle one, and that I must cease all weak lament and lift my thought to another state of existence.

The next day I again sat alone in my room and called upon her to come. I was soon conscious of this impressive though all unseen

presence. "Tell me," I implored, "tell me *how* we shall bridge over this gulf of silence between the Seen and the Unseen? *What* can we do, you and I, to bridge over this silence between the two planes of life? We stand here, spirit to spirit, for I, too, though still in the physical world, am potentially a spiritual being as well as you. How can you still convey to me the knowledge of your experiences?"

"It rests with you rather than with me," was the reply. No words were audible; no form was visible; but this sentence sank upon my mind with the absolute and unmistakable reality that would attend any reply made to a very serious question.

This time the words were not quite so far apart, and it seemed easier for her to speak and for me to receive them than before. "It rests with you rather than with me!" The words opened to me a new vista. The current "spiritualism" of the world has always been calling on those in the unseen life to manifest themselves; to "rap," to "materialize," — this and that. Without going into this subject at

all, it may probably be received by us all as approximate truth that a proportion of all these recorded and related manifestations are true ; a proportion fraudulent, including both intentional and unintentional deception. But in any case the *onus* has been thrown upon the unseen to make themselves known to us, rather than upon ourselves to so develop our spiritual nature as to come into easy and natural communication with them.

In that other world which Kant well calls not another *place*, but another *view*, are the hosts of the unseen ; their lives press closely to ours, but are made up of a range of experiences far more extended, more vivid, more significant, than our own. How shall we comprehend these ? How shall we understand what they desire to tell us ?

It rests with us rather than with them.

Communion with this world is no more the mere experience of an hour's *séance* with a "medium" than is the mere occasional sending of a telegram the measure of our life. As potential spiritual beings, it is our privilege

to live the life of the spirit, — the higher life of intellectual work, of affection, of generosity, of love. That quality of life is spiritual life. That quality of life renders the inter-communion possible.

The evolutionary progress of the race has now attained a degree that renders inter-communion between the two worlds the next step. It is as natural, as subject to the orderly workings of Law, as is the development of electricity. This opening of inter-communion — not as an occasional phenomenon, but as the natural daily experience — is now as essential to the higher social progress as was the laying of the Atlantic cable. Is it “visionary” to talk of it? Columbus was a visionary. Cyrus Field was a visionary. “Visions,” says George Eliot, “are the creators and feeders of mankind.”

The nature, the resources, the experiences common to the life just beyond, are, we may be assured, soon to be revealed to us.

“What is so universal as death must be a benefit,” wrote the poet Schiller; and to any

of us who have paused before the closed portal beyond which our nearest and dearest have vanished, these words must recur as significant. There is a signal comfort in realizing the universality of the experience. Even at the worst and in the most despairing view, it is only a question of time. It is not as if death occurred to some and not to others. It is the one inevitable and absolute certainty for every human being, and in this fact alone is untold consolation.

“For dying has grown dear

Now you are dead, who turned all things to grace.”

Even the most despairing and sceptical pessimist must needs admit this proposition: that if immortality and reunion beyond the grave is true, it is, at worst, only a question of time. The event is assured. If immortality is not true, and if there is no reunion beyond, — if this life here is all, — then a few years more or less of happiness matter little, in the long run. The end is inevitable; and whether it come sooner or later is not of lasting significance.

For myself, while I had always believed entirely, though in a rather serenely light-hearted way, in the reunion beyond, and in more or less communion between those in the two worlds all the time: yet when the question suddenly became to me, by *her* death, one of the most absolute and predominant importance, then, instead of accepting readily the possibility of communion with her, I became questioning and critical of every experience. In just the degree to which it was to me a matter of supreme moment, — one that transcended every other wish and hope and demand of life, — to just that degree did I grow more and more critical in scrutiny of the experiences which I record in this story of a summer. It is, indeed, a story so entirely of the inner life, and of experiences the most sacred and private, that only the conviction that the occurrences attest the working of a law as yet unformulated constrains this record. It is more and more borne in upon my mind that, in the order of divine Providence, the time is approaching for the beginning of

direct and authentic inter-communion between the two worlds of the seen and the unseen. Always have there been partial glimpses, occasional intimations, the momentary lifting of the curtain. The poets have always had visions of "angels that come and go," and have transcribed them, without, perhaps, the conviction of their absolute and simple and literal reality. They have been vague, because the mind of the one receiving them was in the race bondage to the prevailing belief that these things are abnormal, and are rather, even at best, the shadow of truth than truth itself. Theology, rather than intuition, has dominated mankind. The Bible is one continuous record of what are really and simply spiritual experiences, occurring between the inhabitants of the seen and the unseen worlds. With the life of Jesus these assumed a still higher character; and his life, his death, his subsequent appearances in the spiritual body, offered an impressive object lesson of the destiny of the soul. He whose life was so far exalted above that of any other also was ena-

bled to realize the spiritualization of his visible body, so that, instead of his spiritual form escaping from its outer sheath, as is the case in the usual process of death, his spiritual power was sufficient to transmute the physical body into the spiritual one, and thus there was no body left in the sepulchre. Psychic science has now arrived at this truth, which explains the fact that has puzzled and perplexed preceding ages, — that the sepulchre was vacant when the stone was rolled away. Psychic science advances and makes its discoveries in the same accurate and authentic manner that science on any other plane makes. That the earth is round and revolves; that the law of gravitation obtains; that action and reaction are equal; that the stars and that solar systems have their appointed courses, — all these are among the sublime truths that science has discovered. In an age that can photograph thought; that can weigh the emotions; that can send a message by a sunbeam instead of a wire; that can telegraph by the clouds, — in such an age it is not

possible that absolute ignorance shall prevail as to the nature and the general characteristics of the life just beyond this, to which go, every day, those nearest and dearest to us ; to which we are inevitably destined. The time has arrived when direct and authentic communication must begin.

“Shall I hold on with both hands to every paltry possession ?” said Emerson. “All I have seen teaches me to trust the Creator for all I have not seen.”

Communication with those who have gone into the unseen by means of visible forces, as rapping, table-lifting, and all kinds of physical phenomena, is sometimes genuine, but is, at the best, clumsy and crude. It is calculated to only impress the senses, and deals only with the material. As man advances in spirituality of life, he develops those faculties which have a correspondence to the faculties of spiritual beings. The difference is as it would be in communication here, if we resorted to rapping and table-tapping and signs and signals instead of language. Now, if mankind could grasp the

law of telepathy and thus learn the language of spiritual life, could not the awful desolation of death, resulting from the unbroken silence, be redeemed to a sense of sacred joy? Is not this, then, the next step in evolution? Is it not the achievement of the near future,—to so develop spirituality of life and the use of spiritual faculties that communion between those in this world will take on those higher instantaneous conditions of spirit to spirit, and that communion may be established between the seen and the unseen?

The more conscious the communion with *her* became, the more I seemed to be taught that the power of telepathy is that by means of which the identity of spiritual life in both the seen and in the unseen shall be established. It is the language of the spirit. Undoubtedly the means of communication between those who have passed through death, and who are in the life beyond, it is no less the higher means of their communication with us here, and the higher means of communication, also, between those who are still in the physical

life. It is a means possible only to a certain degree of spiritual development, united with intelligent recognition. The discovery of telepathy — the most swift, subtle, and potent force in existence — is one whose results are incalculable. For with our rational recognition these results will begin to take their due place in life and fall into the divine order of the conduct of affairs. Telepathy will inevitably become a practical working factor in life, as universally recognized as telegraphy and as definitely controlled by its own laws. When it is once understood that communication between two persons in the unseen world, or two persons in this world, or between one who is here and one who is there, is substantially the same kind of communication, then the separation of death will not separate, and the absolute and vivid perception of the divine order of the universe will begin. For the sake of clearness, let us suppose the case of four friends, all of whom are known to each other; two of whom have died and are in the unseen world, and the other two of whom are here.

A and B, we will say, are in the unseen world; C and D are in the physical world. Now if A and B carry on their intercourse together by telepathy; if C and D can also, even while in this world, communicate by the same law; and if A and B both communicate to C and D by this swift and subtle mental telegraphy of thought,—then it is obvious that all four are, practically, spiritual beings, living in a spiritual world, and in touch with spiritual forces. It is obvious that when C and D shall emerge, so to speak, from their physical bodies, that they will be to some degree prepared for the change to the new life and the new conditions. It is also obvious that if the spiritual nature while here can be so developed as to be able to intelligently use its higher faculties,—those which are its working forces for the life to come,—it is a valuable achievement. Every advance in power reacts upon the environment. The world is one thing to the savage, another to the civilized man. The higher the civilization, the larger are the resources of life.

“The universe belongs to him who loves, who wills, who prays,” says Balzac; “but he must love, he must will, he must pray.” To love, to will, to pray, is to come into conscious realization of the higher powers.

There has often been quoted, with the emphasis of applause, the remark of some one who proposed to take “one world at a time.” But where is the line to be drawn? Man has his twofold nature,—the physical and the spiritual. The moment that he reads, thinks, transacts business, enters into social relations, he is acting, by necessity, the part of an inhabitant of the spiritual world. Thought, love, sympathy, intelligence,—those all belong to his spiritual nature. If he is to take one world only, implying the world of the visible and the tangible, then he must merely eat, drink, and sleep. To think, to invent, to create, to conduct great enterprises, to hold social relations,—all that is of the other world, which he who consistently takes “one world at a time” must bar out from his life. The phrase is easily reduced to an absurdity.

There are very few human beings who live exclusively in the "one world." The one who did so live would be a monstrosity, for he would have to be devoid of mental power and of social sympathies.

To live the higher life is a method commended by all. What is that higher life but to live the life of the spirit, — which is joy, peace, and love? To achieve the life of the spirit is to develop within ourselves those faculties which are in easy and natural communication with the faculties of those in the unseen. It is to come into spiritual correspondence with them.

IN TWO WORLDS.

Two worlds hast thou to dwell in, Sweet, --
The virginal, untroubled sky,
And this vexed region at my feet.
Alas, but one have I !

To all my songs there clings the shade,
The dulling shade of mundane care ;
They amid mortal mists are made,
Thine, in immortal air.

WILLIAM WATSON.



IN TWO WORLDS.

Our eyes are holden that we cannot see things that stare us in the face until the hour arrives when the mind is ripened. Then we behold them, and the time when we saw them not is like a dream.

EMERSON.



THE law of auto-suggestion accounts for a large proportion of the experiences which those unfamiliar with the data of psychic science ascribe to the force of another mind; but it could not, it seemed to me, account for these occasional occurrences when the sudden coming of my friend in the unseen took on the same reality that would invest the arrival of any guest or caller. In fact, this is but a feeble expression to describe those vivid experiences which often reminded me of Emerson's words when he says:—

“In our definitions we grope after the spiritual by describing it as *invisible*. The true meaning of spiritual is *real*.”

This was what they seemed, — *real* experiences in contrast with which the meeting and mingling with people in this life were vague. It is true that the thought of her was never, so to speak, absent from my mind. Nor did I even for an instant wish to forget, even though remembrance was pain unspeakable. Ah! —

“The rose’s scent is bitterness
To him that loved the rose.”

And always with me, whatever the scenes of outward beauty, of historic grandeur, of poetic association, was that constant sense of desolation. Without *her* it was literally true for me that

“the world’s great space
Held nothing but an empty place.”

This perpetual consciousness of her, however, did not produce any perpetual consciousness of her presence. When that recognition came it was as distinct as that of the entrance

of any visitor, besides being far more vivid and impressive. Scrutinizing these mental conditions the conviction grew that if her presence was merely a matter of imagination on my part, I should imagine it more frequently, and for longer periods of time. But it seemed to be a distinct event outside myself when I perceived her presence, and as if it were by some law as natural as that which governs our meetings in this world. It seemed, too, that she was learning how to reach me, as my spirit was endeavoring to learn how to recognize her, and that on both sides this was a spiritual experiment in which we were both gaining increased facility.

It was on the morning of the nineteenth day after she had gone to the other world that I awakened and gazed for an instant in sheer bewilderment at the space where an instant before I had seen her. The sceptic will say this was a dream ; but as it links itself with so many other experiences later on that proved themselves outside those of this life, I am persuaded that the state I had been in

was merely a bodily sleep, while the spirit was actively conscious. At all events, I seemed to have just seen and talked with her. It was as if we had suddenly met after a long absence, and I was narrating to her how I had endeavored by means of maps and data to follow her in her last journeys when here. She looked as I had never seen her, yet perfectly natural, if the two can be reconciled. It was she in her radiant youth, the girl I had never seen rather than the woman I had known, yet the question of identity, or even of any strangeness, did not occur to me. In reply to my remark about following her journeys, — which applied, indeed, to the entire fifteen years of our friendship during which she had travelled extensively and I had been so in touch with her plans that almost any day, if not hour, I could have reached her by telegram, — in reply she said, with an ineffable smile, “Ah, but there was *one* journey on which you could not follow me.” It was at this moment that I came to consciousness; and should any caller in my room suddenly

vanish from the chair in which he sat, I could not be more amazed than I was for an instant to see the vacant place where I had just seen her.

Is it not true that the "subconscious" self is an infelicitous name for the higher, the real self, whose powers are far in advance of those manifested on this or the visible plane? This subconscious (or higher) self is to the ordinary self as the man who can hear, see, speak, touch, and walk is to the one who is deaf, blind, dumb, and paralyzed. Clairvoyance, clairaudience, the power to control things far beyond our actual touch and presence, are potential faculties of every human being. Jesus plainly said that all He had done we should do; and not only this, but "greater things." The key to all true life is to accept His assertions in the simple, direct way in which they are given. The potential higher being, with all its marvellous powers, is within each human being. To realize this divinity in every-day living is the desired end. By virtue of this potential higher self we have commu-

nion with those beyond death. To just the extent that we realize on this plane of manifestation that higher spiritual (or subconscious) self, to that extent do we dwell, now and here, in the spiritual world, in communion with its inhabitants.

It was, I am persuaded, my own "subconscious," or subliminal self which, from some cause of unusual harmony at that time, was able to distinctly perceive and recognize the ethereal form of my friend. The first three impressions of her presence had been of messages heard by the inner sense. In this fourth one was the inner sense of sight added to hearing. The sensation it left with me is indescribable in its exhilaration and radiant energy.

It is now nearly fifty years since the sound of "the Rochester knockings" was heard round the world. From that time a vast mass of phenomena has accumulated that has been studied, denied, derided, accepted, variously. It has enlisted learned investigation. It has baffled investigation. It has been relegated to the realm of the inconsequential, and has

incited the frequent remark that it is all too crude and too idle to have any high origin or convey any hint of value. This sweeping generalization would be not without truth if all this were an end. But it was not in the least an end, but a means. It was simply the method employed to arrest the general attention. The finer and higher method of telepathy might reach and impress the brain of an Emerson, but it could not reach and impress the general public. That had to be done by the appeal to the physical senses, — to the sight, the hearing, and the touch. To communicate by rapping and the alphabet may seem very puerile, but what beginning could be made? How was this gulf of silence between the two worlds to be bridged over? What signals could be flashed across? All that stage has been merely preparatory. The real illumination is yet to come.

But the achievement is to be on our side, by lifting ourselves to the spiritual life; by so overcoming the lower, the selfish nature that we may perpetually live the life of the

spirit. The devotee who embraces the ascetic life seizes a fragment of the truth, — that of overcoming the lower physical nature. But physical qualities held in due support of the powers of the spirit are not low. For instance, to dine for the mere pleasure of appetite is a propensity to be overcome; but to dine for the reinforcement of bodily energies, that they may well sustain that instrument through which the spirit works, is a factor in the higher life. It is a life that is lived by considering the body as an instrument, — as the temple of the indwelling spirit, — to be kept in health and in harmony, in support of the spiritual purposes of accomplishment, of aspiration, of the fulfilment of duties, the radiation of noble and true influence. So living, spirit will respond to spirit, both from the Seen and the Unseen.

Nor, when this matter is looked at fairly, can it seem irreverent or idle to endeavor to trace the law of social relation which persists beyond death. Just why it should be wrong or unwise to establish, if possible, clearly

recognized and intelligent communion with those who have passed into the higher state is not quite plain. Might it not, with equal force, have been said, before the Atlantic cable was laid, that it would be wrong to attempt instantaneous communication between the two continents, — on the ground that it was unnatural? If it is right to continue communication with a friend on the other side of the earth, how can it be wrong to continue communication with him on the other side of death?

We are in the dawning of an age of higher forces. The more active, the more potent, the more vivid world is as the plane just beyond this. There is the sphere of far wider and more important activities, and it is of these that we catch certain reflections and suggestions, as in the great inventions here which are projected from that plane to this. There is the centre of intense and far-reaching activities; there is, indeed, the real life, in the sense of deeper realities than those of the present stage. Now, the capacity to receive impres-

sions is of itself a valuable quality. As humanity advances, this capacity becomes more keen, and man catches hints and receives intimations of a finer and far more extended order. The result of these is seen in the world at the present time, in the growing knowledge of science, the increasing inventions, the general advance to a larger scale of living. This advance will increase in an accelerated ratio, until this world shall be fairly transformed to a higher plane. But the transformation will not be a supernatural, but a purely natural one. Some of these transformations have already been entered upon. It is difficult to imagine the social state when there was no telegraphic communication, no steam-engine, no fast steamers. Yet within the memory of men still living was the time when it required a month to go to Europe; when only the stagecoach went to the Pacific Coast, and when telegraphic communication did not exist. Even electricity, which is undoubtedly the force in use on the plane of life beyond this, is so extending the facilities of

life on earth as to, practically, enlarge all the faculties of the mind and increase the use of the senses. If by telephone one may speak to a friend one thousand miles away, that is practically working the miracle of his voice being heard at the distance of one thousand miles.

Space is being annihilated by steam and by electricity. The isolation of life is also being rapidly transformed into close social contact by the new conditions.

The curiously misleading phrascology of death as "going into the dark," and as "the terror of the unknown," and "the land of shadows" will soon be obsolete. Humanity will recognize the higher truth.

DISTANT GATES OF EDEN.

“The connection between electricity and psychic force is a subject of singular interest; and the tendency of facts already known goes far to prove that they are connected. . . .

“Each force in nature is the servant of the next above it. Mechanics lends itself to chemistry; chemistry to electricity; electricity to psychic force. And these are but the outer gates to the vital forces entrusted to a higher range of spiritual existence.”

“Who, rowing hard against the stream,
Saw distant gates of Eden gleam.”

DISTANT GATES OF EDEN.

In our definitions we grope after the spiritual by describing it as *invisible*. The true meaning of spiritual is *real*. — EMERSON.



COMMUNICATION is the supreme test of civilization. The higher its degree, the finer its quality, the more easy and swift are the methods of communication. Take the savage, the barbarous state ; how abject and dull are the methods of social intercourse ! Conversation, in the sense of the higher development of life, is unknown. Whatever intercourse there is, is restricted to the crudest and most meagre kind, and relates only to the barest physical necessities. As the scale of life ascends, the range of communication increases, and its subjects multiply. The man of the higher culture has a thousand subjects on which to converse,

a multitude of ideas to impart, that are totally unknown to a lower degree of development. Then, as we advance in the scrutiny of civilized life, we see the small town with its one weekly paper, the larger one with its daily, the great city with its dozens of semi-daily papers, — all eagerly seized as methods of intercommunication in human society. As civilization advances, the barriers of all isolation break down. Each nation is aware of the leading events transpiring in other nations; conversation, letters, the daily press, the telegraph, the cable, the telephone, — all these are the expressions of the highest development of civilization. Easy and rapid transit also keeps pace with these. So much must be conceded as an existing and evident truth.

Now, the next step in the higher development of life is to establish communication with the life just beyond this. If there is any advantage in direct and swift communication with other nations, how much greater may be that of direct and intelligent communication with the higher plane of life! If it is desir-

able to establish communication with the inhabitants of Mars, how much more so with that vast multitude of our own friends, our own fellow-beings, who have, by means of the process of death, attained a state of existence that is still a mystery to us, as regards its conditions, its methods, its resources. Here is a vast world of the most vivid and important activities,—a world whose life is infinitely more active, more significant than that of our own,—and we go on for centuries regarding it as a misfortune to go there, and as a place which we call the land of shadows, of darkness, of phantoms! More important than the mission of Columbus to discover this new continent; more important than the mission of Cyrus Field to lay the cable,—is the mission to establish a direct, an intelligent, and an authoritative communication with those in the next plane of life.

The telegraph, the telephone, thought transference,—here we have the ascending scale of communication: the telegraph for the briefest messages of utility, the telephone for still

more expanded and easy conversational intercourse, thought transference, or psychic telegraphy, for the still more swift, more individual, more extended and satisfying interchange. It is in this that the possibilities lie of direct communication with those who have passed beyond death. The cruder forms of physical phenomena served their purpose to arrest the attention of a cruder age. It is for this age to develop the method of psychic communion. It would seem, indeed, that humanity is already on the threshold of new and finer phases of psychical experience and convincing evidence of the close relations existing between the Seen and the Unseen worlds. If science has not yet proved Immortality, it has certainly penetrated very near to some of the conditions of the life just beyond this. Many of these conditions are adapted to the higher development of this life. For instance, the X ray of Roentgen enables the physical eye to penetrate a solid substance, as before its discovery the speculative thinker believed only the spiritual eye could do. By

means of the telephone, man becomes practically clairaudient. The invention whereby one may be enabled to see as well as to hear, at the distance of a thousand miles, is on its way to being perfected. Now, the annihilation of space is, distinctively, a condition which has always been associated with man's ideas of the spiritual world, where to think, or to will, was to be. But through marvellous, although natural inventions, the inhabitants of this world are coming to enter somewhat upon these conditions. The arrangements being made for the test and trial and exhibition of electrical apparatus at the Exposition of 1900 in Paris almost surpass imagination. To be propelled through the air, as it were, on wires from the Eiffel Tower to the dome of the Trocadero, by the electric motor, is almost equal to flying through the air. The photography of thought, which is an accomplished fact ; the marvellous preservation of the voice in the phonograph, — these and other of the new discoveries of hitherto latent forces of nature are impressive indica-

tions of the manner in which the spiritual insight and energy of man are penetrating the secrets of the universe.

It is, perhaps, not illogical to reason that the life just beyond death is one that differs from ours only in that of this higher and larger knowledge of controlling the laws of nature.

Dr. Edward O. Day in a recent article says : —

“The Sanscrit logicians declare that, apart from the physical or gross body, which disintegrates at death, there exists an ethereal or ‘subtile body,’ which, though material, is so subtile as thus far to have escaped the investigations of science; that this, not the gross body, is the perceiver, actor, and director of the personality; that it uses the physical body as an instrument, but at the same time receives impressions from it in varying degrees of intensity proportioned to their higher or lower rates of vibration, — coarser or finer materiality. These impressions are said to impart an indelible coloring to the ‘subtile body.’

“At death this ‘subtile body’ is said to go out with a definite rate of vibration, — which predetermines the succeeding stage of experience. Saint Paul may refer to this when he says: ‘There is a natural body and a spiritual body;’ and when he questions ‘With what body do they come?’ is it not this spiritual body to which reference is made?”

Almost the only practical difference to-day between the conservative and the more advanced views of spiritual belief is that while both believe in the immortality of the soul, the one regards death as final separation from those remaining on this plane of life. If A is to outlive B for fifty years, then must he wait fifty years before again having companionship with his friend; while the newer belief is that between B in the Unseen and A in the Seen there may be a perpetual intercourse of spirit to spirit. Thus, if A felt himself constantly companioned, it would not only infinitely lessen all the anguish of bereavement, but would be the constant stimulus to live that higher life of the spirit; that life

which is joy, peace, and love, — that life whose joy, peace, and love can only be wrought out of the moral virtues of truth, honesty, courtesy, and flawless integrity. In fact, this belief gives the most remarkable impetus to the spiritualization of life.

Not, of course, that one desires to believe what is not true. Who would consent to dwell in a fool's paradise? If death is the entire separation from those dearest to us until we, too, die, then by all means let us know it, let us recognize and accept it. Even that belief is not without its consolations, for death is the one certain and inevitable experience that awaits us all. It would be, at most, only a question of time.

Still it is, indeed, less as a matter of personal consolation and comfort — great as is the factor of personal happiness in life — than it is as a matter of the higher development; of responsive interest in being in touch with the life of the higher plane, that the realization of immediate intercourse between the two worlds is of greatest value. The mere

phenomenon — which is only associated with the presence of a medium — is merely the rudimentary stage of this finer realization. Its principal service has been to establish the reality of the close relation between the two planes of life. It is at best a clumsy mechanism ; but it is a question whether any other means than that appealing to the physical senses would ever have succeeded in arousing popular interest. For half a century these physical manifestations have been on trial, as it were, and that they are now generally accepted as having in them elements impossible to explain on any other hypothesis is conceded.

The general recognition and acceptance of the truth that the life beyond this is more real, even as mature life is more real than childhood, is so rapidly increasing that it amounts to a new development in the human race. More important even than this is the recognition that the spiritual world is a matter of condition ; that it can be experienced before death ; and that just in proportion as

life is elevated and noble and generous and loving, in that proportion does one live in the spiritual or the more real world. "Thoughts let us into realities," said Emerson. To just that degree in which one lives in the spirit may there be communication or communion between the two worlds. The religious term has always been "communion," signifying the meeting and mingling of mind. The term "communication" has come to be regarded as phenomenon, which again is widely discussed and criticised as being genuine or fraudulent. But any communion at all is certainly communication, although it may be in the higher region of impressions rather than the one of definite messages. That form is, too, more desirable, even though there may be at times legitimate desire for special word or message regarding some specific matter. But the church has always recognized the possibility and the actual existence of communion, and has held the "communion of the saints" to be among the richest spiritual blessings.

Edgar Fawcett has recently said : —

“From Sir Francis Galton, an English astronomer of wide repute, comes the tidings that Mars is sending us signals, and that he has already resolved these into sentences, and the sentences he has separated into letters. It is a celestial cipher, affirms Sir Francis Galton, but one of which he has not yet found the key. Some huge electric invention has been constructed by the Martians, and planetary currents are made so subservient to its enormous energies that an incessant telegraphy is going on with interstellar ether for its medium. Working in one of the great European observatories, Sir Francis has constructed, it is declared, an apparatus which he placed next to the telescope he employed, and which has given him the most amazing results. He is now convinced that earnest efforts are being made by Mars to hold with us intelligent converse. ‘He has not yet been able to decipher the exact meaning of these words which the Martian telegraph operators have been flashing toward us,’ runs a startling article full of apparent veracity, ‘but that they constitute long messages, and are meant to be read by the inhabitants of the earth, he has no doubt.’

“Now suppose that all this budget of seeming miracle has fact for its base. Interplanetary communication is not really more wonderful than intercontinental communication — than the leagues of cable which already wed Europe to the west. And yet if the people on Mars should ever speak with us, how transcendently mighty would be the epoch! Every event in history would pale before it.”

When a scholarly writer who is in no wise inclined toward spiritual speculation yet declares that “Interplanetary communication is not really more wonderful than intercontinental communication,” it registers the amazing advance of the thought of the day.

The interplanetary communication seems a possible and a reasonable thing. Not less so, but more, seems the probable, the inevitable establishment of communication, in recognized, definite form, between the visible and the ethereal worlds, or between those here and those who have passed beyond death. In the sense of communion the process is telepathy. There is probably far more of that

going on with each and all than any one is fully aware, for just what thoughts may be suggested by the invisible companions, and just what the mind itself suggests in its action is by no means discriminated. Yet with attention and with sufficient growth of spiritual life, this form of communication — the highest and most satisfactory — may grow clear and recognizable. One may come to realize the thought, or the words, of the invisible companion as definitely as those of any caller or visitor or companion in this life.

This recognition grew to me constantly more clear and definite in relation to her. About this time I left Paris for a long journey through southern Europe. From the hour of entering Switzerland until we reached Vienna, the route through the Alps and the Tyrol was one of picturesque and poetic beauty. Never could we forget the atmospheric effects through the Tyrol, where clouds and peaks combined in mythological forms till one fairly saw the gods of Hellas towering in the sky. While in Vienna, once in the marvellous cathedral of

Saint Stephen, and again on an enchanted afternoon with Madame Materna, while with her in the rose-garden that glows and gleams in the grounds of her beautiful villa, there were recognitions on my part of a presence invisible to others, but not in a way sufficiently striking to relate. Later came a visit to Hungary, where every hour was full of activities; a journey to Venice *via* Fiume, around the blue Adriatic, and then — Venice. Her towers and marble palaces rose from the water like a dream, like a mirage, like a magician's spell; and one felt the thrill of the vague memory, —

“Of a life lived somewhere, I know not
In what diviner sphere —”

And in the strange silence of this dream city I again began to realize *her* companionship.

Experiences grew still more vivid during an evening journey, after Venice had faded like a wraith in the distance, and the route lay through a region where the purple peaks of the Apennines were swimming in a sea of

silver mist. They deepened and multiplied while in Florence, where more than once invisible guidance led me to place or picture that otherwise I should have missed.

At the same time general assertions of this nature carry no weight, and this little record must limit itself to such experiences as can be more definitely stated.

UNTO MY HEART THOU LIVEST SO.

For you cannot talk of matter alone. If you say matter, you must say spirit. They are the two sides of the one existence, and are never to be separated from each other in fact, although in thought we distinguish them by quality, in order that we may be able to think at all. But in manifestation they are never apart. There is no such thing as spirit, or force, or life, without matter, by which it takes its form, by which it shows its energy.

ANNIE BESANT.

“How can I cease to pray for thee? Somewhere

In God's great universe thou art to-day.

Can He not reach thee with His tender care?

Can He not hear me when for thee I pray?

“What matters it to Him who holds within

The hollow of His hand all worlds, all space,

That thou art done with earthly pain and sin?

Somewhere within His ken thou hast a place.

“Somewhere thou livest and hast need of Him;

Somewhere thy soul sees higher heights to climb;

And somewhere still there may be valleys dim

That thou must pass to reach the hills sublime.”

UNTO MY HEART THOU LIVEST SO.

“Sometimes wherever I may go
Unto my heart thou livest so,
I marvel if the forms I meet,
The speech I hear, be Time’s deceit, —
If viewlessness and silence screen
More life than can be heard and seen.”

O far from the relations between friends being ended by death, it is only then that they begin. Then, if they are real, a readjustment takes place that perfects the mutual sympathy and comprehension. If there is no true spiritual relation but only the so-called friendship of the convenience of the moment, or of external attraction, the event of death terminates it, even as it deepens and enlarges all real relations.

“The rose that blossomed not
Lives in our hearts forever,
And hands ne’er clasped in life
Death has no power to sever.”

A very potent and marvellous uplifting to the diviner world is the invariable experience after one most beloved has gone on into the invisible realm. The readjustment of relations begins to take place. It is life that separates ; it is death that unites. While the spirit is inhabiting the physical body it is screened, imprisoned, as it were ; and the assertion of a German philosopher, that no man ever saw or ever was seen by his fellow-man, is literally true.

“You do not see my friend at all ;
You see what hides him from your sight,”

well writes a poet. “Spiritual things are spiritually discerned ;” and to recognize each other truly, even while here, we must all be discerners of spirits. Life is just as sacred as death. We are building up our spiritual relationships and conditions every hour and every day ; and to just the degree in which one can live in the spirit here, and regard all his friendships as spiritual relationships, — so to that extent does he transcend death, and es-

tablish, here and now, the conditions that this change cannot destroy nor greatly affect.

When the spiritual being that has lived a certain period here slips out of its physical body and is free from material clogs and limitations, the readjustment in a number of ways is made. Those who still remain in this world are far more truly recognized. Some have been unduly appreciated; some have been underestimated. The risen spiritual being, now being able to discern spiritual states and to adjust all to a new scale of values, rearranges his loves and friendships, so to speak. In fact, here is the type of the judgment day.

Instead of any sadness or despair when death comes near to us, the true view is simply one of exaltation and of happiness, heretofore undreamed.

The evidence of immortality, and of sweet, swift communion between the visible and the invisible worlds, is in one's own soul.

"The witness is within," as Whittier truly says. To talk of so-called "spiritualism" and

“mediums” as the final tests or as the arbiters of a future life, in which to believe or not to believe, according as to whether a “communication” seems genuine or not, is a moral state so puerile and so insignificant as to be unworthy extended allusion, — much less discussion. It is nothing less than sacrilege to hear a man say that he rests his faith or unfaith, — his belief or his disbelief in Immortality and the divine life, the life more abundant that is entered by the process we call death, — that he bases this faith on the fact of a “medium’s” giving or not giving him a message from his relative or his friend who has died. If he have no realization of his own spiritual nature; if he does not perceive and feel and recognize the realities of the higher life in which it is his privilege to live even while in the physical body, — then no “tests” are of the slightest importance. But, once realizing himself as a spirit here and now, and recognizing his true relations to the spiritual world, then he may, under certain conditions, find the same added joy in exchanging messages with his

friend in the other life that he would find in correspondence, or in visits in this life. It is simply the extension of friendly intercourse.

The conditions for this extension of intercourse between the Seen and the Unseen are to live in the spirit here and now. "The committal of the soul to God," as Professor Amiel well phrases it, is the one condition of the perception of spiritual life. You "belong to God." And "if one belongs to God, he must live worthily of Him." He "keeps an open mind to divine instruction." The communion with the Unseen is continually possible, and to some degree is continually carried on.

Still, while phenomena are less important than the unerring perception of intuition and spiritual recognition, it would be ignorance or falsehood to deny that there is definite and authentic communication between one in this world and one in the world beyond made possible by the peculiar organization of certain persons termed mediums, or psychics. One of these had prophesied to me, a number of years ago, that I should go to Europe with the

friend referred to in these pages. Two years later the same prophecy from the same psychic was repeated. At that time it had grown more improbable than even at first, and, remarking on this to the medium, the reply was, "It will be ; I see you there together."

It was on the June Sunday that I sat by the grave of Mrs. Browning in the English Cemetery at Florence that this prophecy flashed upon my remembrance. That *she* went to the higher life the very day of my landing at Liverpool ; that all the story here narrated had been lived ; that I had been so curiously conscious of her presence and companionship in a way that had increased constantly, — were facts that, to the most incredulous mind, could not but have been startling.

On returning from Europe, I communicated this prophecy, and the curious coincidence of date, at least, if not (as I believed) the fulfilment of it, to Dr. Richard Hodgson, the eminent and critical scholar and thinker who is the Secretary of the Society for Psychical Research. Dr. Hodgson was impressed by

it, and promised that I should again have a "sitting" with the psychic, whom I had not seen for a number of years and who, in the mean time, had come to be under the auspices of the Society and could only be seen by official permission. Professor James of Harvard University, Professor Sidgwick of Cambridge, England, Mr. F. W. H. Myers, and other learned men had studied and tested this psychic, and the result was a conviction that the phenomena which occurred through her were inexplicable on any other theory than that of communication from those in the life just beyond. By Dr. Hodgson's courtesy I went to this lady for a sitting, which has subsequently been followed by several others. On the first occasion there were written (through the automatic writing of the psychic) some two hundred pages signed with the name of the friend referred to in this book. But the signature was as unimportant a feature in the communication itself as is the signature of any personal letter from a familiar friend. Not only various characteristic forms

of expression, strong individualities, and allusions, and circumstances were evident ; but besides a clear and rational explanation of a matter that had been perplexing was given, — an explanation involving the story of an event of which I, at that time, had never heard, with its place, time, and participants all written out, and which afterward, I learned from one of the persons involved, to have been entirely correct. Still, however remarkable was the nature of this first interview, it is hardly to be compared to subsequent ones. In fact, the narration of all these up to the present time would offer a story to test the credulity of any one ; and still — and it is this fact which is the key-note of the book, which is my *raison d'être* for writing it at all, — still, this entire story of the several long communications received through this psychic, is one that is, by its very nature, provable before any tribunal. Let any jury of fair and intelligent men — with no predilections in favor of the possibility of its truth, but who were simply intelligent and just — let any such jury

be called, and the communications themselves be submitted, and the living witnesses called who could, and would, corroborate assertions, allusions, and circumstances, and the verdict of authenticity and genuineness would be inevitable.

In no wise am I a special pleader for the thing called Spiritualism. In common with all sincere persons my only desire is to perceive and to believe the truth.

To relate here the story of this train of evidences would require an octavo volume ; and also, as will readily be recognized, such a narrative would be of too personal a nature to quite admit of public record. Still, while personal, it is not, necessarily, private. The life and deeds of a woman simple, noble, truthful, sincere, great in heart and in mind, does not involve secrets, so to speak. One may have scruples of delicacy against relating matters which are, after all, open enough to every one interested.

On one occasion I had asked her the question, "Can you read writing—ordinary

manuscript?" The reply was: "Of course I can, but I can read your soul better. I see your thoughts most clearly." Again the question was asked, "Can you — the spiritual beings in the spiritual world — read our books, — the general literature here?" To which was replied, "No, dear, not exactly, yet the idea is understood by us." "Can you hear me if I read aloud to you?" "Yes, perfectly. Speaking aloud has an effect. It reaches us better and clearer." "Is the other life as different from ours here as we have thought?" "Oh, no, dear; it is just like going from one room into another. It is so beautiful, and there is such freedom and clearness of thought. I never struggle with my own mind here. And the travelling is delightful. The sensation of riding through the air is delicious." "Is the communication between you and myself more direct than is usual between two who are on the different planes, — the Seen and the Unseen?" "Yes, it may be said to be, because there are few persons who are so near each other." At one sitting the spirit friend took the initiative and

wrote : “ Dearest ——, come near to me and answer a few questions.” The questions were asked, — regarding the disposition of certain affairs, and other matters, — showing as clear memory and perception of events and circumstances as would have been shown had the friends met in this world after a separation.

Naturally, the personal matters which taste forbids me to narrate would be evidential in their nature, while questions and responses of this impersonal kind are not. This is a difficulty which forms an inexorable limitation in any writing upon this subject.

The teachings of religion, while holding in essence the deepest truth, have been so largely figurative that they have left the ideas of the life beyond in a maze of abstract mystery. There is a mystic beauty in the picture of standing before the throne of God holding palm branches, but it is one that must be received in its mystic sense and not translated literally. Truth and fact are by no means synonymous. The one is eternal, the other transient.

It is the province of psychic science to project its discoveries of the nature of the life beyond this. Religion, in its usual teachings, gives the great truths in mystical and figurative phrase. To recognize the Divine Father and Jesus the Christ, and to know that He is the way, the truth, and the life; to accept the truth of the immortal nature of the soul, — this is the supremely important matter; but as intelligent beings, who, by the law of evolution, are developing into constantly higher states, it may be as much a part of the true province of knowledge to extend the domain of investigation into the forces of spirit, as well as into those of nature. It is no less reverent, surely, to inquire into the nature and destiny of the soul than it is to inquire into the nature and use of any form of the divine creation. The intelligent and faithful student of psychic science is working toward the discovery of the new immaterial world, as Columbus was toward the discovery of a new continent. In fact, as the two hemispheres of the East and the West correspond, so are this

world and that just beyond death in correspondence. The infinite progression of the soul is in states or series of lives. The one lying just beyond this does not differ from ours so greatly as has been believed. It is not a vague region somewhere in inconceivable space, where inconceivable beings wave palm branches; but a world differing from this only in degree, and by a difference hardly more marked than that which lies between the New England of 1620 and of 1900. If one should dwell for a moment upon this land as the Pilgrims found it, and on the meagre resources up to 1800 and later, as compared with the resources and activities of the past half-century, and more especially of those of the present decade, he will realize how the constantly growing control of higher forces of nature transforms the life of man. Take away the steam-engine, the telegraph, the electric motor, the submarine cable, the telephone, to say nothing of the many other still more marvellous inventions and projections of modern science, — and how barren and meagre and

limited is the life of man! Without the steam-engine the distance from Boston to New York becomes a matter of six or seven days, rather than hours, making the two cities, practically, as far apart as New York and London. Without the telegraph and cable, life in every city or town is local and insulated from all the rest of the world.

Now, take that still higher control of forces which is found in the ethereal world, and what is the result? Our friends who have been liberated into that larger life by the process we name death find themselves in a realm where will and thought are forces. To will is to accomplish. The ethereal body is no longer subject to the law of gravitation. It is under the law of attraction. Communication is carried on by that subtle and swift spiritual process of thought transference, or telepathy, which is the spirit language, and of which those in this world are already gaining some knowledge. Travelling is accomplished by floating at will through the air, — a sensation said to be a delicious one. In this ethe-

real world a life similar to this, only higher and finer in degree, is lived. There are libraries, temples of worship, halls of music, and art. There are the occupations of reading, writing, study, invention. The law of service prevails in a diviner way than here, but one that, after all, would be quite possible here; for this life may be divinely lived. The doctrine of the Incarnation is the great lesson in divine living, here and now. "God is the only reality; and we are real only so far as we are in His order and He in us." Truly, indeed, as faith varies, so does the life that comes of it.

ACROSS THE WORLD I SPEAK
TO THEE.

“Spirits are not finely touched,
But to fine issues.”

“From wave and star and flower
Some effluence rare
Was lent thee, — a divine but transient dower.
Thou yield’st it back from eyes and lips and hair
To wave and star and flower.”

ACROSS THE WORLD I SPEAK TO THEE.

“Across the world I speak to thee ;
Whether in yonder star thou be
A spirit loosed in purple air ;
Whether beneath the tropic-tree
The cooling night-wind fans thy hair, —
Whether in yonder star thou be,
Across the world I speak to thee.
Send thou a messenger to me.”



HERE is coming to be a great change in the mental attitude toward death. Every sympathetic observer of life must recognize the increasing spirituality of the general feeling in regard to that event which sooner or later comes into every home, — death. Its darkness and extreme terror have almost disappeared; the time has gone when we affirmed by our lips, but denied by our conduct, our belief in immortality. Formerly — and much of it lingers at the present time — a death

in the family plunged every member of it "into mourning." Usually the mourning is synonymous with grief, but not invariably. Whether it is the accompaniment of grief or only the conventional tribute to custom, it is a matter involving the element of trade and traffic; of the intrusion of bustle and material affairs on hours that should be sacred to exaltation and to consecrated thought. Here is a great, new experience. One dearly beloved has gone on to the next higher plane of life. He is not dead; he is more alive than ever before; near and dear as the relations to him may have been on earth, now they may be infinitely nearer and dearer. Lowell expresses this truth in these lines:—

"Now I can love thee truly,
For nothing comes between
The senses and the spirit,
The seen and the unseen."

Nor need death be thought of as formless and vague and void. "There is a natural body and there is a spiritual body," said Saint Paul. Psychic science has discovered and

formulated, beyond question of doubt, certain truths about the life that lies just beyond this. These truths are as unquestionably attested as any truths of philosophy or of physics.

First, "a spirit" is simply the spiritual being in the spiritual body, just as the individual here is the spiritual being in the physical body. The spiritual and the physical bodies correspond in all details of form. But the spiritual body is light and capable of swift movement, and is far more the expression of the spirit force than is the physical body. The physical body is subject to the resistance of matter, while the spiritual body is not; the one is subject to the law of gravitation, not so the other. The man living in the present life is essentially a spirit; he does not "become" one by death, but merely slips out of the outer, coarser, physical body, and finds himself in this spiritual body with head and hands and feet, — the form he has been accustomed to. Now he has to do with finer agencies. Not necessarily is he remote from the space where those on earth are living.

He has achieved a higher plane of consciousness than he had here ; but that does not necessarily imply a geographical or astronomical change of place. This truth is readily recognized by a moment's reflection on the way numerous and varied grades of life may go on within the same physical space, from the "insensate clod" to the insect, the animal, the human being ; from the criminal to the saint.

The event of death does not probably at once change a man's nature. It effects no miraculous or instantaneous change in the quality of his spirit. There are spirits still in the physical body much more exalted than some who have gone out of the physical body. Still, the general tendency is upward, for the one fact of the loss of relations with material things tends to spiritualization.

It is more than probable that there is never a time when the friend here can be so much aid and comfort to the one he holds dear as just after that one has passed through death. "You can do nothing more for him," is some-

times heard. "His life is closed." "He has gone forever." Never were words more misleading. His friend can do more than ever for him. His life is *not* closed, but — begun. He has *not* "gone forever," but rather he is nearer, closer, in more tender relation than was heretofore permitted him to be. The masses for the dead in the Catholic Church rest on the deepest spiritual truth. And how beautiful are the sacred words of which the first lines are, —

"Eternal rest give unto them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them."

To hold sacred and peaceful the season of death is to enter into its most divine uplifting. Violent grief must be torture to the one who is gone, and who is vainly striving to make those here understand that he is only more alive than they are, — alive with a keener, finer, more exalted life. The truly enlightened vision will yet come to regard death as a sacred festival, a spiritual sacrament, instead of a time of tears and seclusion and sel-

fish grief, — for, however unconsciously, such grief *is* selfish; instead of this, it will be a period when the nearer friends will lift up their hearts with a new and deeper sense of the spiritual life; when spirit to spirit — the one in the life beyond, the other in this life — shall meet more nearly, more truly responsive than ever before, and a closer sense of the divine love encompass them round about.

“The unknown is not by any necessity the unknowable,” said Bishop Phillips Brooks. In that assertion there lies a profound truth, to which one of almost equal significance might be added; namely, that the effort to investigate the unknown, and if possible to transmute it into the known, is not demoralizing. On the contrary, the entire progress of the world has depended on those persons who did not regard ignorance as synonymous with righteousness; whose horizon of possibilities was not bounded by the perceptions of the senses; who did not fear to take risks and steer into the unknown. That the Copernican theory of the universe replaced the Ptolemaic is due

to the faith of Galileo in new and independent investigation. The discovery and establishment of the law of gravitation is due to Newton's higher penetration into nature's laws. The constant progress of electrical science, which is revolutionizing all the conditions of modern life, is due to faith, insight, experiment ; to patient and persistent endeavor ; to unwearied effort in the pursuit of new forces. The law of psychical communication will be discovered by the same power of patient, persistent effort ; by critical scrutiny of all alleged messages received and close study of the conditions involved. Faith is not credulity ; nor is denial, and refusal to study and consider, any mark of a superior intelligence.

“ The spirit world around this world of sense
Floats like an atmosphere.”

All life that is spiritual life, whether in the physical or the psychical body, — that is, whether before death or after death, — is of this atmosphere. The spiritual world is a condition and not a location. It will readily be seen from analogies in this world how very

different degrees of life can go on in the same space. Take any one block of a city, even any two homes next door to each other, or even any two rooms in one house, and consider how, under the same roof, in what is practically the same material space, two individual lives may go on, — the one exalted, noble, open to every divine influence; the other, poor, mean, dwarfed, darkened. Thus it will be seen that in the same space the spiritual and physical worlds may coexist, each being a condition.

There is a supreme need in the life of to-day: that theology shall lift itself to spirituality. Religion is not an argument, or even a creed: it is life and love; it is the recognition of spiritual laws. "To make habitually a new estimate, that is elevation." Religion needs to take account of the new estimate, of that vast and momentous array of psychic truth that is the discovery of this age. The treasure-stores of the invisible realm are open to the spiritual perception of the present. Telepathy is not merely the phenomenal means

of communication between two persons who are widely separated by distance; but it is also the appointed means by which the inhabitants of the invisible world are giving us of their knowledge, their counsel. To be able to receive this one must live in touch with the higher life, — that is, he must himself live the higher life of love, sweetness, sympathy. He must live “as seeing Him who is invisible.” Falsehood, hatred, wrong-doing of any kind build up a barrier between those in this life and in the one beyond. In so far as there are moral defects, there is not spiritual life. To hold communion with friends in the life beyond, one must lift himself to that life. He must spiritualize his conditions of thought, of aspiration.

There is perhaps no power that organized religion could bring to bear on general life which would be so all-compelling in its results as to impress the reality of communion between the visible and the invisible. In the light of that realization every noble aspiration is intensified; every ignoble one revealed in

its true paltriness and meanness. The life that is possible in its resplendence, its exaltation, its loveliness, its charm, is seen in vivid contrast with a mere existence of worry, care, perplexity, and strife. It is not so much that if one lives nobly he shall go to beautiful conditions at death; it is that he shall have the beautiful conditions: the realization of intercourse with the invisible world here and now. Here, not merely hereafter: now, not in some vague and far off eternity.

In the natural evolution of progress the time is now approaching for a new revelation of the life just beyond the event we call death. Nearly nineteen hundred years ago Jesus, the Christ, gave the revelation suited to the comprehension of that time, and which has sufficed for the growing advancement of the centuries since. The law of progress that prevails in the divine creation has now brought the human race to that point where it is prepared to comprehend more completely the conditions and experiences beyond. This need will be met. We stand on the threshold of a new revelation.

As Bishop Brooks with his illuminated spiritual vision so clearly foresaw, the special will and purpose of God and the corresponding activity of man must produce a mutualness of knowledge. Jesus "knew the Father by a direct perception of kindred life." Herein lies the only clue to the spiritual world. Live the kindred life, — and the realm is open to him who so dwells in the divine atmosphere.

Bishop Brooks offers an ideal that may well be translated into a standard for every life in the words —

"The life of the Christ so far as it was public was comprised within three years and a few months. For that the previous thirty years had been a preparation. During all that time He was receiving instruction from those exalted angels who inspired him with zeal and love for His mission. He was a constant communer with the world of spirit, and was the more able to drink in their teachings that His body was no bar to His spirit."

To be "a communer with the world of spirit"! Is it not thus that this present life

in the visible is linked with that life upon which we are all to enter, just beyond in the invisible; that on the faithful and earnest performance and fulfilment of all that is set before us in this world depends the degree of fitness we carry with us to enter on the realities of that world?

That the communication between that world and this is open to all who understand and fulfil the conditions is beyond question; but it is a matter of spirituality of life, of high achievement in essential qualities, rather than of phenomena. It is only by the knowledge and practice of psychic laws that this communion may become definite to the intellectual perception.

But is there any difference, it may be asked, between spiritual perception and psychic knowledge? It would seem that there is. The one is intuitive; the other as intellectual as the science of numbers. That holy men of all ages have had the open communion with the spiritual world, that they have been in touch with divine forces, there can be no

doubt; but it has been left for the present age to formulate the spiritual laws and apprehend them as psychic science. The man who never heard of Newton, or of the law of gravitation, is as much subject to its effects as the savant; but he is ignorantly and blindly — not intelligently — subject to the law.

There are many persons who are curious rather than interested in all that pertains to the life beyond, and who, knowing little and caring less for that spirituality of life which alone makes possible the sweet and constant communion between the Seen and the Unseen, go to a "medium" as they would go to the theatre. They go for a sensation, a phenomenon, and if they do not experience this, are not backward in denouncing the possible communication, and even in denying all belief in a future life. Communion with a friend in the Unseen, while under favorable conditions it may assume a definite form of appeal to the sight or hearing by means of a medium, is by no means limited to some chance hour thus taken at intervals. It is a matter of mutual compre-

hension and sympathy, — of spirit to spirit, — just as is the companionship and communion of life. It is, so to speak, an achievement of one's whole soul, in solitude and in silence, in its conscious and unerring recognition of the invisible and the divine. It is the end, not the immediate reward, that is the true object of quest in life. To set one's heart

“upon the goal,
Not on the prize,”

is the true attitude of mind. All the powers of nature, all the powers of the universe, are plastic to the force of thought. In thought is the spiritual power to act on conditions. To enlarge and elevate life to the plane of thought, to the recognition of divine purposes, to enter into harmony with these, — in this atmosphere alone may one come, not “to compete or strive,” but to be enabled to so live as those spirits

“With whom the stars connive
To work their will.”

The world is fast approaching the plane whereon the higher forces of nature hold sway. The old order changeth. All the mechanism of life is to be more swift, more subtile, more responsive. The slow and clumsy processes of the past are rapidly fading away, and the finer forces take their place. We do not now fill lamps, or even strike matches and light the gas; we turn the key, and, presto! the room is flooded with electric light. The time is close at hand when the endless manual labor of a large correspondence will be superseded by thought transference. The steam-engine gives place to the electric motor.

As with the finer and more subtile natural forces, so with the spiritual. Love and service — a loving service — is the finest expression life can assume. Generosity is a luxury even before it is a virtue. He who has it in his power to oblige another, he it is who tastes the diviner richness of life.

Love and service, — in these is found the preparation for the life beyond. In the perpetual angelic communion is found the energy

which radiates in service and in love. Let these two elements enter into every experience, informing it with joy and love and peace and exaltation, and life shall take on new significances and deeper richness.

For man is created for the higher, not for the lower life. When he lives below his moral ideals, he is out of his habitat, — as a bird would be in the water, or a fish in the air. He was created for a spiritual atmosphere, and only in that does he realize his true being.

The year of 1897 dawns in brilliancy of radiant promise. Psychical research and scientific experiment and demonstration are serving religious truth. Science is revealing powers of nature, — higher forces hitherto unsuspected. The marvellous X-ray, that is even promising to enable the blind to see, and, what is perhaps more marvellous, is revealing those high vibrations of the luminiferous ether which convey that force we call thought from mind to mind without the intervention of the cells of the brain, — what a revelation

is this ! For it is nothing short of the absolute demonstration of spiritual communication. It explains how thought leaps from spirit to spirit, transcending the mental mechanism, showing a process more delicate, more subtile, than were the marvels of the mind that had heretofore been known.

One reason why there has been so little, comparatively speaking, received of authentic communications from the unseen world that hold much degree of universal significance, is that the requisite conditions on this side have not been observed. Intense and devoted love has followed to the tomb, — and there it has been stayed. Devoted love has made keen the anguish of grief, but it has not possessed immediate faith. At the best, it has found what solace it might in the conviction of reunion after death, but it has held no immediate convictions of satisfactory communication now and here. Theology has looked upon it as a false and vain idea ; the so-called spiritualist has too largely held it to be a phenomenon of occasion, and the general

public have lost no time in any meditation upon the philosophy, the speculative possibilities, or the truth underlying the subject. The devotion of thought and love that has usually followed those who have gone on into the other life has, for the most part, brooded over the past, but has not demanded the present.

The year of 1897 marks a new and clearer consciousness of man's relation with the spiritual world. The Seen and the Unseen are coming into still clearer and nearer and more intimate union. The only true union is when the mortal lifts itself to the immortal; when the advancing perception of man discovers more of the higher forces of nature, and learns to avail himself of these and to adjust his life to the plane of larger development. The communion between the Seen and the Unseen is a part of that divine life which is the higher life. As the thought flashing from spirit to spirit, it is rational; as a truth in the divine order, it is to be held in reverence and trust.

“Dead? Not to thee, thou keen watcher, — not
silent, not viewless to thee,
Immortal still wrapped in the mortal! I, from
the mortal set free,
Greet thee by many clear tokens thou smilest to
hear and to see.”

The clear recognition of this communion of spirit between the Seen and the Unseen is one of the great features of the immediate future in the bringing of the earthly life of man into harmony with heavenly principles. A vast combination of forces are working to this result. As Kant so well says, “The other world is not another place, but another view.” The spiritual world is about us as an atmosphere, and it lies with ourselves to enter into it more and more clearly and consciously, even while our physical organism still holds us to the physical world. The assertion that the pure in heart shall see God is not a merely abstract religious phrase; not one whose affirmative significance is restricted to experiences after death, but which may be realized now, to-day, this hour, every hour. To see God is to see, to perceive — which is a still

higher degree of relation — the good ; to perceive and to be in touch with spiritual beings and divine forces. To be in and of this life is to live, now and here, in that atmosphere of joy, peace, and exhilaration which is heaven.

In the realm of pure ether is the significant, the substantial world. Here the forces are delicate, imponderable, but infinitely more intense in energy. In just that proportion in which they are more delicate and immaterial are they more intense. Those who inhabit this ethereal world are embodied in the spiritual form, — in bodies electric in energy, that never know fatigue, and which are in perfect harmony with their environment.

To come into a knowledge of conditions under which any satisfactory communion can be established between those still in this world and those in the Unseen, is to come into the knowledge of the conditions of spiritual life ; of that spiritualization of life through which alone any true and significant communion is possible. The atmosphere through which one in the Unseen may be enabled to draw near is

that of radiating good-will and love. "Keep serene in mind, and have no unkind or impatient thoughts of any one," was the reply that *she* gave me when I once questioned her as to the best conditions for establishing communion between us. And now the bewildering agony that swept over me when first I learned that she had gone to that fair country we shall all one day see, is transfigured to a constant sense of the sweet and radiant atmosphere in which she lives; and reading, study, work, social life, take on a new aspect and a higher charm, because every joy is doubled in this invisible but exquisite sense of companionship.

"Regret is dead, but love is more
Than in the summers that are flown;
For I myself with these have grown
To something greater than before."

Psychic science may perhaps be said to have established the fact that the life just beyond the present one has some determinate limit, followed by another and another in succession, just as this life is limited by the event we call

death ; and that this next life is not nearly so different from our own as has been conjectured. One goes by death, not into some vague celestial state, but into the ethereal world, which is a counterpart of this, only more real and more significant. The forces are more delicate and intense, as an electric motor, for instance, is more intense and delicate than a steam-engine ; as turning the key of an electric light is a more delicate and more potent process of obtaining illumination than to fill and light and adjust a kerosene lamp. If a journey is to be taken, those in the ethereal world do not need to prepare and pack trunks and go through the drudgery of preparation that is requisite here ; they make the journey by the motor of thought. Life is one, even though it be divided by the change we call death. It is good to see it in its wholeness, and realize that change is not arbitrary and startling, but is simply development.

Spirituality of life, while it may include phenomena, does not rest on any special manifes-

tations. If it never experienced these, it would know the essential truth, even though it apprehended no details, of the life beyond. For spiritual things are spiritually discerned. It is written of Stephen, "But he, being full of the Holy Ghost, looking up steadfastly to heaven, saw the glory of God." But the condition for seeing the glory of God is in that he shall be "full of the Holy Ghost," full of the Holy Spirit.

Of the life just beyond, what can more vividly present it than these words of Phillips Brooks : —

"Heaven will not be pure stagnation, not idleness, not any mere luxurious dreaming over the spiritual repose that has been safely and forever won ; but active, tireless, earnest work ; fresh, live enthusiasm for the high labors which eternity will offer. These vivid inspirations will play through our deep repose, and make it more mighty in the service of God than any feverish and unsatisfied toil of earth has ever been. The sea of glass will be mingled with fire."

The supreme truth of the present day is the fact that psychic science is steadily conquering new territory and reclaiming the vague and the unknown to the realm of rational and intelligent comprehension. Richard Hodgson, LL.D., the Secretary of the Society for Psychical Research, is now engaged in a series of researches whose results he will duly publish, and which will give to the world a clear, definite and scientifically attested knowledge of the conditions of the next life, which will be, practically, a new revelation. It has been my privilege to read these almost daily as his work has gone on; and when they are published, the work will be of as marked importance to the conduct of life as was Newton's Principia to the progress of science. These researches are revealing the location of the world we have called heaven; its place in the universe; its nature, its conditions, and the manner in which its inhabitants approach the material world and come into a knowledge of our affairs, and into communication with us. The higher knowledge of ethics is involved

in this new and larger comprehension of spiritual laws.

The new discoveries of the mysteries of the ether are inseparably conjoined with new discoveries of psychic laws. The latest scientific truth formulated is that telegraphy can be accomplished without wires, the message simply transmitted by means of electric waves in the ether. Since the discovery of the Röntgen ray in the dawning of the year 1896, a vast mass of new data concerning light, electricity, and various forms of energy have revealed themselves to the untiring efforts of science. It is now known that the brain is an electric battery : with the discovery of the electric waves that permeate the ether, the process of thought transference is as clear to the understanding as the ordinary sending of a telegram by wire. When it is further realized that death is merely the emerging from the physical case that has enveloped the real body, and that the spiritual being thus liberated comes into a condition of higher life and is in touch with the higher forces of

nature, then how simple and natural becomes the intercommunication of mind to mind, spirit to spirit. The poet's exclamation,

“Across the world I speak to thee,”

is the mere assertion of a fact.

Of the extreme sensitiveness of this electric communication through the ether, I have become unmistakably conscious since she — who was dearest of all to me — has gone into the ethereal world. It is a literal fact that I have never appealed to her with any question, entreaty, or endearment that the response has not been swift, definite, and unmistakable. This response is made in various ways. Sometimes it is telepathic directly from her mind to my own; sometimes it is made through other persons who fulfil the matter regarding which I had appealed to her. There could be hundreds of pages filled with specific occurrences and incidents, each and all of which I could fully substantiate and corroborate to the reader, save that one's sense of the delicacy and fitness of intimate experiences

hardly admits of placing such inevitably personal matters before the public. Yet — such is my serious conviction of the supreme importance of establishing the recognition of larger spiritual outlook — I have been tempted to sacrifice any sense of literary art to the higher claim of psychic truth.

The two conditions for entering into this beautiful and uplifting comprehension of the divine laws that govern the relations between the Seen and the Unseen are belief and prayer. It is prayer that lifts the soul into the ethereal region, and the command of the Christ to pray without ceasing defines the conditions of living in perpetual communion with the diviner world.

Love is not barred by death, but, rather, when the beloved has passed beyond the ethereal veil into that region which is still so near and interpenetrates all our atmosphere, then, indeed, is all affection, all friendship, all tenderness of devotion invested with new potencies. Then begins the real relation of spirit to spirit ; so infinitely nearer and clearer

in its mutual comprehensiveness and love that one realizes suddenly how it is life that separates and death that unites.

If the great grief that fell upon me on that radiant June morning last year — a grief that seemed to efface all possibilities of joy and to paralyze endeavor — shall have been the means of permitting me to enter on new paths of knowledge; if it shall result in enabling my own experience to be even of the least service and comfort to others who know this supreme anguish in the death of their beloved, — shall I not give thanks that it was sent to me, even as *she*, whose life here was constantly filled with the noblest aspirations and the divinest inspirations, would also rejoice to still further serve the humanity to whose aid and betterment her life was devoted? Ah, that exquisite and lovely and radiant presence! that spirit so finely touched that only fine issues could await its progress! She was one who impressed the imagination. She was indeed

“Made of spirit, and fire, and dew,”

and she always abounded in spiritual energy. Delicate in physique, artistic in temperament, lofty in all poetic and heroic feeling, hers was that intense and exquisitely wrought nature that leaves forever its haunting impress. The pathos of her death, alone, on that far-off island in the Pacific, lies with me "too deep for tears;" and my only claim to the hope and the prayer that this little story of the experiences and meditations after her death may possibly offer some comfort to those who have been bereaved, lies in the fact that life and work have been made possible to me again by the reality of my continued companionship with her. It comes in the sense of a spiritual consciousness surrounding me like an atmosphere.

One cannot offer mere personal impressions as proofs of his personal convictions; but facts established both by science and by psychical research may be presented. Science comes to the aid of psychic research, and the two, working along different lines, obtain results that harmonize and supplement each other.

For instance, psychic research has brought to our conception the ethereal body, which is the finer counterpart of the physical, and has learned that all the senses save that of taste are retained and intensified, and that there are, also, indescribable new senses. Now science discovers that the ether is permeated with electric waves, through which communication can be sent to any distance, without the slightest mechanism, — needing only the mind of the sender and the receiver. What is this but a spiritual communication? And why is it not just as rational to suppose that two minds — the one in the physical, the one in the ethereal world — can thus transmit messages to each other, as that a man in Calcutta can transmit a message to his friend in Chicago?

The ether interpenetrates all our atmosphere, and fills all interplanetary space. How easy and even inevitable then may communication be between those in this world, or those here and those in the one beyond death! And in this scientific fact, so recently

discovered, lies the explanation of the process we call telepathy. This ether transmits sound waves at the rate of one hundred and ninety-two thousand miles per second. At this rate it does not take long to "put a girdle round the earth."

The ethereal world is invisible to us simply because its life is a matter of higher vibrations. The human eye cannot see beyond the limit of a vibration of eight hundred trillions per second, and the human ear is likewise limited. So that all life in a higher state of vibration than this is invisible and inaudible. There is a field of tremendous forces in this upper region, which science is just beginning to apprehend. "The air is full of miracles," says a recent authority. "The certainty is, strange things are coming, and coming soon."

The ethereal world was open to Jesus because he lived the life of spirituality. In proportion as one achieves this, does the realm just beyond grow clearer. In this spiritual perspective the experiences common to all are seen in their truer values. One

comes to perceive that the only enduring realities are the moral victories which his higher nature gains over the lower. He discovers that external conditions are but the transitory scenery through which he is passing, and hold no permanent power for good or for ill over his life.

The establishment of definite, recognized, and intelligent communication between the seen and the unseen would make a new era in the development of the race. To reject the idea as irreverent is as idle as it would be to deprecate establishing social relations with a neighboring city or continent. The advantage would be an infinite illumination in all arts and inventions that have to do with the higher forces of nature: in infinite comfort, and in the absolute demonstration of personal immortality. Life would be exalted and ennobled. As heaven is a condition, and not a place, it is entered simply by the achievement of that spirituality which fits one for its diviner air, and enables him to affirm: "Thou hast made known to me the ways

of life; Thou shalt fill me full of joy with Thy countenance." Thus shall life be radiant, joyful, and abound in spiritual energy, and into its daily experiences shall enter the King of Glory.

THE DEEPER MEANING OF THE HOUR.

It seems to me natural, judging by my own feeling of what I should be impelled to do, that spirits should desire to communicate with their friends on earth.

KATE FIELD.

During the conjunction of body and soul, nature orders the one to obey and the other to command. Which of these two characters is most suitable to the Divine Being, or to that which is mortal? Are you not sensible that the divine is only capable of commanding, and what is mortal is only worthy of obedience?

THE PHAEDON OF PLATO.

“Man is a duality, consisting of an organized spiritual form, evolved coincidently with and permeating the physical body, and having corresponding organs and developments. Death is the separation of this duality, and effects no change in the spirit, morally or intellectually.”

THE DEEPER MEANING OF THE HOUR.

And, oh, the wonder and the power,
The deeper meaning of the hour !

EMERSON.



HE nature of intercommunication between the two worlds of the Seen and the Unseen falls into the two phases of the telepathic and the mediumistic, — the first being that which one may achieve personally, and the second that which he attains through a psychic. To allude to the professional medium is to invite incredulity, distrust, and ridicule on the part of a large number of intelligent and cultivated people ; and realizing this, I only venture to do so by earnestly entreating the reader to divest himself of any prejudice or adverse preconceptions he may hold, and judge on its merits the vast quantity of new data before

the world at the present time. It is to be at once conceded that there is much deliberate and intentional fraud, much unconscious and unintentional delusion, under the phase of mediumship. But as it is not with that which is false and ignorant that we have to do, it is not worth while to waste energy over its discussion or its refutation. Error has no tenure on life, and truth is eternal.

“Get but the truth once uttered, and 't is like
A star new-born that drops into its place
And which, once circling in the placid round,
Not all the tumults of the earth can shake.”

Aside from conscious deception or unconscious delusion, there is a vast and an increasing amount of evidence of communication between those who have passed through the change called death and those still in the physical body, which is as incontrovertible as any other actual occurrences in life.

The larger portion of the long communications from *her* — my beloved friend whose transition to the other life has seemed to so

open its nature to me — are impossible to relate here in full for two reasons. One, which is sufficiently obvious to every one, is in the inevitable personalities that are involved, and also that the telepathic portions of it, while convincing to myself, are, by their very nature, so subtle and involved with the most intimate inner life, as to render narration almost impossible; while, on the other hand, the hundreds of pages of definite, objective communications, written through the hand of the medium, are the property, so to speak, of the Psychical Society, and it is not permitted to make them public until the authorized Proceedings are published. A group of learned men, scholars and scientists, are devoting themselves earnestly to this work of psychic research; they permit very few to hold any *séance* with the medium under their control; and whoever enjoys this privilege must respect their conditions. In the present desire to offer to the reader testimony to the truth which I hold to be of the supremest importance, I would even sacrifice much of the

reserve which usually invests intimate personal experiences, for the sake of offering the due support of facts to the argument. In any case, however, fidelity to the trust imposed by the Society forbids, as my experiences through their medium are their records to be used among their data. There have been evidential phenomena of the most convincing character : personal experiences of my own, when alone in my own room, in connection with the reading of certain books and the writing of certain matters, with a conviction on my part of her presence, have been written by her the next day (through the hand of the medium) to Dr. Hodgson, who submitted to me the assertions made, to be verified or denied. It is with an almost incredulous amazement that I have read many of these, — depicting in detail movements and work of my own, on the preceding day, when entirely alone in my own rooms. It was impossible to deny that some super-normal intelligence — which had not only noted my outward acts, but read and understood my thoughts — had

companied me, unseen and unheard, but none the less real; and then had registered, through the hand of the medium, facts and thought-currents entirely unknown to her and to the Secretary, Dr. Hodgson. The theory of clairvoyance on the part of the medium does not cover the ground, which largely involved that of my own mental life, as well as outward actions. The theory that my own subliminal self went out to this psychic and wrote through her, involves an equal or a greater mystery, even, than the more simple one, that my friend, as a spiritual being, was in my room and saw and heard what she wrote that she did. It is less mysterious that the spiritual body when liberated by death from its physical case may see, hear, and record through a mediumistic instrument certain occurrences, than it is that the spiritual self, while still conjoined to its physical body, can go out and do this. The latter is possible, but it is certainly more complicated than the former. Again, my proof that the communications signed with the name of my friend were truly

from her, lies in that they have narrated many things totally unknown to me, or to the psychic, but which I have afterward learned, from persons involved, to be explicitly true. My proof lies also — and this is, to myself, one even more potent — in the absolute individuality of the very essence of the communications; turns of expression; characteristic feelings and sentiments: the subtle, potent, and utterly unmistakable flavor of her own very strong and decided nature. At one time I had been looking over several boxes of her books and papers, and found that she had, as we are all apt to do, saved much that had become worthless. To a friend who chanced to come, I had remarked, in reference to these accumulations, that she had a fatal habit of saving things. In a few days I went again for a sitting with the psychic. *She* came and among many other things wrote: "Yes, I saved a great deal too much. I see it was always a fault of mine to do so." Could there be any doubt that she heard my remark and thus replied? If it be suggested that my own

subjective self controlled the medium and wrote this, it must be remembered that a large proportion of these communications have been of things I did not know, but afterward verified.

In offering any evidential data as authoritative testimony, however, one should either be prepared to submit it *in toto*, or else refrain altogether. As has been said, it is impossible here to do this, for even were I to entirely sacrifice all natural reserve on intimate personal matters, I am not permitted to use matter, at present, obtained under the auspices and by the invaluable courtesy of the Society for Psychical Research, through the personal consent of its Secretary, Dr. Hodgson. This restriction is one that time will remove, and I cannot refrain from the hope that at a future period I may venture to offer in another volume matter now inevitably withheld.

The intercourse that is now so unmistakably established between *her* and myself owes much of its success to the fact that

she possessed strong psychic power. The instrument known as "Planchette" wrote under her hand in so remarkable a manner that she compiled a little book of these communications, which was published under the title of "Planchette's Diary." The volume is now out of print, but from my own copy I extract the record of one sitting. The "Mr. and Mrs. F." referred to are Rev. O. B. and Mrs. Frothingham. The record runs:—

"We dined to-day with Mr. and Mrs. F., and in the evening had a long and very interesting *séance* with Planchette in the presence of half a dozen persons. Planchette made a correct report of the physical condition of Mr. F.'s nearest relative, of whom I knew nothing; gave an admirable analysis of Mr. F.'s character; referred to the nature of his ancestry, of which I was ignorant; when questioned about Shakespeare, Fanny Kemble, and Edwin Booth, gave clever criticisms thereon, and was witty as well as wise. This was the verdict of those assembled, who

pronounced Planchette 'to be very singular indeed.'

"The *séance* was too personal for the public eye. Planchette would communicate with no one but Mr. F., and expressed the greatest desire that he should himself experiment with the board for the purpose of investigation, 'because,' argued Planchette, 'he has a clear head, and if he once believes, he will not hesitate to promulgate the truth that is, in one form or another, as old as the hills.'

"Mr. F. manifested a great deal of interest. Planchette wrote twenty-six long pages."

On another date she recorded:—

"... None of us were Spiritualists, and we naturally speculated upon the phenomena; whereupon Planchette wrote: 'Do believe in the reality of Spiritualism. How can you doubt the truth of these phenomena? How can your mind control when so much is written that you dream not of? Soon you will discriminate, and the influences around you are so fine that you will obtain exceeding comfort from so-called Planchette.'"

During her life here she was not a "Spiritualist" in the accepted sense, but her mind was too hospitable to progress for her to oppose any wall of prejudice to new phases of knowledge. In a final chapter of theories regarding the phenomenon of the Planchette writing, she says:—

... "It behooves me to say that I am not a Spiritualist; nevertheless, I have no prejudice whatever against a belief in spiritual communion. If we are endowed with immortal souls, and preserve our individuality in another existence, it seems to me natural, judging by my own feeling of what I should be impelled to do, that spirits should desire to communicate with their friends on earth. There is no known law against such a proceeding, and there *may* be a law in support of it.

"The Bible teems with supernatural visitations, and if they are possible at one time, who shall say they are impossible at another? From our cradles we are taught to believe in the ministering of angels, and literature abounds in allusions to this belief.

“ ‘Millions of spiritual creatures walk the earth
Unseen, both when we wake and when we sleep,’
says Milton, and Sir Thomas Browne is not
a whit less confident of the fact. ‘I do
think,’ reasons the author of ‘Religio Medici,’
‘that many mysteries ascribed to our own
inventions have been the courteous revela-
tions of spirits.’ . . .

“From the sensations undergone while
using Planchette I am inclined to believe
myself to be under the influence of a won-
derfully subtle magnetic fluid. Whence it
comes is the important question.”

These extracts from her own record of
experiences with Planchette reveal her deli-
cate susceptibility to psychic influences and
her mental receptivity to the unknown; and
these characteristics are, one may well believe,
potent factors in the very remarkable success
attending her establishment of communication
from the Unseen to this world.

By the kindness of Mrs. Mabel Loomis
Todd and other friends I had been enabled to
follow her outward experiences up to the very
moment of her leaving this world. Telling her

this, and asking her some questions to which she clearly replied, I begged her to take up the story from the moment of her conscious waking in the other life. She did so, and told me (writing through the hand of the medium) that her first consciousness in the other world was that of standing on the floor in the room in which her body lay. Her father and mother were beside her; and her mother, calling her by name, said, "Come, my child, have no fear," and she then went away with them and joined other near relatives.

"But tell me," I entreated, "of your life in the new conditions."

"It is very simple and natural," she replied; "I live in a house with my father and mother. My brother is here. He is grown up now, and is a man. I read and study and cultivate my mind. I hear beautiful music and noble lectures, and enjoy art in the drama and in paintings. I lecture, myself, and my audiences are far more intelligent and clear-headed than they were in your world. I can travel without any fatigue, and, as I have told you,

the sensation of flying through the air is delicious."

"Can you really hear me when I call to you?" I inquired.

"Yes," she replied, "and I almost always come. If you will speak aloud, very slowly and distinctly, with about five seconds between each word, I can hear you perfectly."

In my rooms I have a large number of her photographs, taken from the time she was a child up to the year of her death, and I asked her which one of these she looked the most like in her new life.

"The one with the flowers," she replied, — which was one taken in her early twenties, showing a very spirited and delicate face, at about the same time that the portrait was taken of which a reproduction forms the frontispiece of this volume.

At another time she wrote: —

"Dear —, you have no idea of the happiness of this world. I could not begin to express to you the sense of freedom and exhilaration that I feel."

The psychical communion that has seemed to exist between us falls into three general divisions: that which, in the years before we ever met, attracted my mind to dwell upon her and fascinated my imagination; that which was always experienced during the last fifteen years of her life here, after we met; and that which has attended this one year after her death. She was a great traveller while here, and our correspondence during her long journeys — to Europe, to the far West, to Alaska, and at last to Honolulu — reveals countless instances of letters crossing with almost identical thoughts, desires, or expressions, attesting the telepathic communication between us even then.

All this is but preliminary to the one salient and supreme truth that may easily be deduced from it, — the unmistakable assurance of the persistence of identity in the life of the spirit, in the body and out of the body. All our social life in this world is spiritual life; all our loves and friendships are of the spirit, — certainly not of the body. *The nature of the*

spiritual being which temporarily inhabits a physical body in the physical world, is in no wise altered by the event of death, which liberates it from this physical case. When liberated, it enters on life in the ethereal world, which is the corresponding counterpart of life in this world. If we could clearly comprehend what life would be now with the entire elimination of all physical demands, we should approach the comprehension of what the life on the next higher plane must be. Take away all that ministers to the physical needs ; imagine beginning the day without care for the body, or for a thousand purely transient and material interests that beset us here, and that one is thus left free for the higher thought, for purely mental and spiritual occupations. Imagine communication carried on, not by letters and telegrams, but by the instant flight of thought ; imagine travelling to be a matter of will and instant performance rather than an affair demanding preparation in detail, as with us : imagine a realm, indeed, where all the clumsy processes of material life are elimi-

nated, and where the law of thought, controlling vibrations, is understood and acted upon, and to some degree can we thus achieve some comprehension of the nature of life in the ethereal world.

The one point of supreme importance, however, in the establishment of the truth of intercommunication between the Seen and the Unseen is that it enters into our present daily life, uplifting and enlightening it. The spiritual being, temporarily inhabiting his physical body, realizes himself as an immortal being whose responsibility it is to fill the days with significant experiences. The choice rests with one's self entirely. It may seem a thing largely and almost inevitably dependent on circumstances, but it is not; for thought is greater than circumstance or event, and dominates them. Significance or insignificance in the quality of life is, like good or evil, a matter of personal choice with the individual. It is possible to eliminate the inane hours and make every day tell in its purposes of fulfillment. Nor is this possibility restricted to the

city dweller, in the heart of all that which is finest in art, literature, and ethics. It is a matter of individual choice rather than that of individual opportunity. Dante advised that men eat angels' food, and be not content with the kind of food that they share with the brutes. The angels' food abounds, whether in city or in country. It is not only in art; it is in literature, that can always be obtained, and it is in the air. Man does not live by bread alone. He lives by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God; that is to say, by every inspiration that in some finer way than by word or sign enters into his inner consciousness.

There can be a realization of that finer world interpenetrating that in which we live. Its ether is in the atmosphere we breathe. It is the world of reality, of force, of vividness, of power. Now it is not only they who have passed on beyond the things of sense who live in this world, but it is one in which the higher self, the ethereal organism, may live, even before it leaves the body. Everything in

this natural world has its spiritual or ethereal counterpart. Nature perpetuates herself in more delicate yet more potent forms. The ethereal body which man assumes at death is a counterpart of the body here; it has the same form, only that it is etherealized. It is not less, but more real. It has to do with a higher range of correspondences. It is an inhabitant of a more important plane of life. Science has demonstrated the existence of the finer atmospheric ether in which this finer body lives and moves. There is a world touching and mingling with ours in which lie the springs of power. Most people live, sometimes, and fragmentarily, in this world. They recognize moments, hours, days, when event and sequence become rhythmic, when the vision shines clear and the voice is heard. Now if it be possible to so live one day in the year, it is possible to so live three hundred and sixty-five days in a year. If it be possible for one hour a day, it is possible for twenty-four hours. This intensity and exaltation constantly records its impress on the air, — that

is, in this finer ethereal world. The deed is the outward and momentary expression ; the motive and purpose are the inner and permanent elements that build up life on the invisible side. One who holds his purpose true to this higher end of life is creating new conditions that will ultimately transform all circumstances. There is no limit to that which he may accomplish. He holds the key to the unlimited stores of energy.

All aims of a high character bring into being their own ways and means. Every noble purpose holds its own right of way.

Nothing conduces more to the holding of the days to a standard of significance than the quiet half-hour alone at night just before retiring. It is possible to absolutely create the next day in this time of silent, concentrated energy. Thought shapes and controls everything. Events are plastic to its stamp. The succeeding day may be created on the preceding night, — may be forged out of love, harmony, and energy. Any writer may experience the almost miraculous results of this

form of auto-suggestion. Any business man may redeem his affairs from entanglement and disorder and peril, by a silent half-hour alone at night, when in thought he shall understand and bring them to order, harmony, and prosperous conduct. Thoughts not only "let us into realities," as Emerson truly says, but they magnetize the elements. The man whose affairs are in danger may, by mental action, summon to his aid the individual, or the capital, or the aid in any way required. The artist can thus achieve the power of creation or of attracting orders and sales ; the writer can decide what he will produce, and can draw from the infinite potency of the ethereal world the conceptions and the expression required. Financial aid can be drawn. As for money, there is money enough ; the only problem is to learn how to touch and control financial currents.

It is this ethereal world which is the World Beautiful, — the world in which all potencies are stored, from which every form of progress, success, and happiness can be drawn. It is

the world wherein all who live the life of significance may dwell, and thus may one so live that he will constantly manifest the Divine.

The spirit's progress is as much a concern of life here as it is hereafter. This progress is, as an ancient writer has truly said, "a process of regeneration, typified by crucifixion and resurrection. The old is crucified; the new is raised up to live a spiritual and holy life. In the life of spiritual progress there should be no stagnation, no paralysis. It should be a growth and a daily adaptation of knowledge; a repression of the earthly; a development of the spiritual and heavenly; a lifelong struggle with self; an ever-widening grasp of Divine truth." It is not merely man's privilege, but his present personal duty, in this present state of existence to live the ideal life. Perfection is no impossible dream, though no mortal has yet ever fully realized it. The command of Jesus, "Be ye perfect, even as your Father in heaven is perfect," is just as binding as a moral law as are the Ten Commandments or the Sermon on the Mount. It

is the simple duty of every human being to be honest, just, truthful, diligent, kind. Furthermore, it is as absolutely his duty to be considerate of each and all with whom he comes in direct and close or in incidental and accidental contact ; to be courteous ; to be hospitable to the best endeavors of every one else, and see people at their best always, and not at their worst ; to be generous, and — higher than all and inclusive of all — to be loving. To radiate a sunny sweetness and love to every one, as the rose radiates its color and fragrance, is the normal condition of living. Anything below this is abnormal. The ideal life is the normal life. “To err is human?” Not in the least. To err is *inhuman*. When the individual errs, he does that which, as a spiritual being, made in the likeness of the heavenly, he has no business to do. He is not an animal ; he is a man. He is a divine being, whose true environment is the divine world. Now the divine world is not a mere phrase of rhetoric that has no meaning ; it is the most real and the most positive thing in

the universe. It has even its location in that finer ether which pervades the outer air. This finer ether is, undoubtedly, the spiritual atmosphere, — the air breathed by those who have gone out from the body into the ethereal world. The ethereal form is probably so fashioned as to breathe this ethereal air, this finer ether which science has discovered and registered. We, who are potentially the ethereal inhabitants of the ethereal world, are already, in our spiritual natures, related to it, and so far as we live in the spirit we live in the spiritual world, in touch with spiritual forces, and companioned by spiritual beings. Into this world evil cannot enter. When we do evil, we separate ourselves from this realm, where it is not only our privilege, but our duty, to live. We are suddenly thrust out from it because we have allied ourselves with conditions that cannot enter it. This truth is typically illustrated on the physical plane of life. Let the educated and cultivated man whose society has been that of cultivated and lovely people suddenly fall into sin, into

crime, into anything base and low, and by an unwritten law he is thrust outside the social companionship of high and beautiful life. Only a gentleman can be the associate of gentlemen. Only one who lives the spiritual life of peace, love, sweetness, exaltation, on the basis of truth, justice, and honesty, can be the associate, can have the companionship of spiritual presences. There may be pity, there may be the desire on the part of the higher to help and uplift the lower; but *until* the lower *is* uplifted, he cannot have on easy, equal terms the companionship of the higher nature.

And to so great a degree is it true that "Evil is wrought by want of thought." The thoughtless word is spoken, and the offender explains that he meant no harm, but that he did n't think. But here is just the point. It is his business to think! For what other conceivable purpose was he formed in the heavenly image and given a rational mind? What is he in the world for? To think is his initial duty.

Now it may not be in the nature of a luxury for a man to sit down with himself and accuse his inner life of having been recreant to its divine trusts. But it is often far more wholesome for our moral progress to accuse than to excuse ourselves. One sees suddenly that his life is all in an entanglement of disasters. What disturbances have entered? What has deflected the magnetic needle from pointing the true cause? Some wrong-doing of his own. There can be no possible doubt of it. Let him recognize it fully and fairly; let him overcome it in spirit, atone for it in any way possible on the outward plane. Let him by prayer and intercession regain his place in the spiritual companionship of the ethereal world. To this end an external renewal will often contribute, as corresponding to the internal. There is moral efficacy in a complete change of costume and environment, of seeking new elements in light, bloom, color, fragrance, in music, poetry, and art. "Behold, I make all things new" is a practical formula, for a change in vibra-

tions can reconstruct all existing states. That thought can entirely transform the atomic vibrations is a scientific fact. By grasping this law man may learn to control all his outer circumstances and render them the harmonious manifestation of his spiritual state. The formula is simple. Atoms, whose combinations make every existing thing, are the result of vibrations; vibrations are under the direct control of thought.

The French savant, M. Desertis, writing of the entrance into the new life, says:—

“True, appallingly true, is the fact of judgment to come, and inexorable as fate its coming. For it is the revealing of what we *are*, that birth into spirit life, disclosing under rigid law the qualities of the true self; it is a strictly continuous process, and he who may desire to know how he will appear in that new life has only to think how he would be ashamed to go among the highest, noblest men and women with all his thoughts spoken aloud as each arises in his mind, for that is the state he has to enter into. Fair as a sculptor’s dream, un-

stained by greed or malice, will show the souls of some of earth's humblest, not because they are rewarded for having been poor, but because they *are* strong and pure and brave and true; while terrible will be the awakening of those enervated by materiality, or who have thought that devotion to a creed can cover the want of that love for man which works unselfishly for the higher good."

The new discoveries of science throw a high illumination on psychic truth. The wildest dream of the magician of the Middle Ages never essayed to compass a more marvellous feat than is suggested by one of the recent experiments in electrical science on the human body. Wonderful as is the phenomenon of the X ray, this latest discovery surpasses that. The Roentgen ray directed to the human body reveals the bones; but it is now found that minute globules of electricity can be swallowed with the effect of making the entire body transparent. If there is an opaque spot, it is because that it locates some disease or defect. If there is perfect health, there is perfect trans-

parency. In proportion as there is not this transparency is the defective physical condition. This new discovery seems to correspond on the physical plane with the aspects of spiritual life on the spiritual plane. The ethereal body expresses the quality of spiritual life, and this life will begin with just that state to which one has attained,—with just the degree he has achieved when the transition from this world to the other comes. How this scientific truth corresponds with the spiritual truth expressed in the words, “God is light, and in Him is no darkness at all”! Because He is perfect and without sin, there is in Him no darkness. In proportion as our own spiritual natures are without sin, so are they illuminated. In proportion as the physical body is without disease, so is it transparent. How these truths attest the correspondence between physical and spiritual states!

Milton expresses the same truth in the lines:—

“For God is light and never but in unapproached
light,
Dwelt from Eternity.”

Alfred Russel Wallace, F. R. S., concisely states the nature of man in the words : —

“Man is a duality consisting of an organized spiritual form, evolved coincidently with and permeating the physical body, and having corresponding organs and developments. Death is the separation of this duality, and effects no change in the spirit, morally or intellectually.

“Progressive evolution of the intellectual and moral natures is the destiny of individuals : the knowledge, attainments, and experience of earth life forming the basis of spirit life.”

Looking backward over past ages, the observer of the panorama of history realizes how infinitely finer is the civilization on the eve of the twentieth century than ever before. The age of the material is not passed, but the age of spirit has certainly begun. The supremacy of spirit is everywhere asserted ; more and more is humanity realizing that material things are the servants of spiritual forces, and that the spiritual achievement is the *raison d'être* of embodied existence.

For instance, the true view of physical life is as a means, not as an end. The body is clothed, fed, refreshed variously; not because food and clothing are an end, *per se*, but because it is the instrument of the spirit, and in order that it may accomplish its work, it must be kept in good condition. Here is just the point where the higher life differentiates from the lower life. The higher asserts the supremacy of the spirit as the real man, whose works and ways are of significance, and uses the material things as tools to its accomplishments. The real man is one and the same in this life, or in what we call the other life. He persists. He casts off the physical body, and emerges into a realm of higher and finer forces. This life is very clumsy compared with that. The amount of impedimenta one must drag about with him when he travels, and even to some extent when he merely goes out for business, or visits, is while here unavoidable; but the mere fact of being free from the care of the body liberates the real man, as is easily seen,

from a host of encumbrances. Not but that these have their use. It is not he who denies and deserts, but he who is nobly true to his present trust who is best prepared for the next step. Life may be a burden, but its cure is not found in suicide. Its richer results lie in experience, and all the pursuits and combinations of affairs furnish this experience. After this is gained, the rudiments and factors may fall off. They are of no further consequence; but to deny their use is a fatal error. He is best prepared to enter on the life just beyond death who has lived here in the fullest and noblest way; who has held the largest relations with this life on the one side, and with all the divine life on the other.

Thus, to be conscious, constantly conscious, of one's relations with the ethereal life is to elevate and enlarge and ennoble every relation with this part of life. To be conscious of the presence, the companionship, the communion, telepathically, of spirit to spirit, is to possess a spring of invigoration and of

exhilaration that is unfailing. When one possesses this consciousness he has happiness. Temporary ills and accidents cannot trouble or depress him, for he realizes that he is a spiritual being, living in a spiritual world. The present civilization is evolved to that degree that the next step is to lay hold in a clear and comprehensive perception of this unseen world and its higher forces. Each new discovery and application of higher laws brings it nearer. Such discoveries as those of the Roentgen ray, of globules of electricity, which, when swallowed, render the body transparent, are bringing us to the very confines of that ethereal realm which is the corresponding hemisphere to this life on earth. The two are inter-related, and the separation is overcome in just the degree to which man achieves spirituality of life.

Nor should the term "Spiritualism" be held in intellectual disrepute. All of us who believe in God and immortality accept a part of its significance by that very belief, and the

special differentiation in the belief of the present communication between the two worlds is one that is more and more increasing its hold on thoughtful people. Aside from this, however, there are certain important significances in the faith that there is no break in the continuity of life which react on conduct here and now. To realize one's essential and individual life as entirely separated from the physical body is to realize the necessity of intellectual culture, of moral achievement, as the only foundation for happiness.

“He who believes that just in proportion as he indulges in passion or selfishness, or the exclusive pursuit of wealth, and neglects to cultivate the affections and the varied powers of his mind, so does he inevitably prepare for himself misery in a world where there are no physical wants to provide for, no occupations but those having for their object social and intellectual and spiritual progress, — such an one is impelled toward pure, high, sympathetic life by motives far stronger than either the teachings of religion or philosophy can supply. He

dreads to give way to passion or to falsehood, to selfishness or to a life of luxurious physical enjoyment, because he knows the inevitable misery of such habits, necessitating the long struggle to develop new and higher faculties. He who knows the realities of the future existence knows that happiness or misery will be directly dependent on the mental fabric we construct by our thoughts and words and actions daily."

Such a philosophy as this is its own incentive to the constant culture of character; and not only in view of happiness that we are able to create for ourselves after the transition to the next life, but in view of the happiness here and now. Each year is creating the future year; each day creates to-morrow; each hour is influencing the succeeding one. The apostle has a phrase of sowing to the spirit and reaping the fruits of the spirit, and of sowing to the flesh, and of the flesh reaping corruption. To live in serenity, in poise, in harmony, love, and sweetness is to sow to the spirit, and of the spirit reap like fruits. It is

to produce beautiful and favorable conditions. It is to live in that serene activity of "without haste, without rest," which is a very different thing from a frantic and chaotic haste. To fall into a nervous flurry and clamor, to sink into selfish greed, or impatience, or hatred, or distrust, is to sow to the flesh, and of the flesh reap corruption in ill-advised action, in unfortunate circumstances, in discordant conditions.

Life itself, the quality of life, daily, in its simple, natural relations, is the most important thing in the world. It is far more important than any special work or achievement can possibly be. "If we live truly, we shall see truly."

There is an infinite expansion possible to time that reverses its power, substituting quality for quantity. In the state of poise, serenity, and exaltation all accomplishment is easy. An hour shall concentrate in itself the energies of a day. A day shall do the work of a week. It is not time that matters, but degree; to keep one's self in spiritual har-

mony, — this is to conquer and prevail. There is no purpose served in flying to pieces because of unforeseen obstacles and interruptions. It is not these that count, or affect to much extent the desired accomplishment, but the spirit in which they are met. Hindrances are, to be sure, of various orders, and not every one is a divine call. One must discriminate; when the unforeseen interruption is a divine call, when it is chiefly a duty, the result will take care of itself. Minutes will do the work of months.

The season of achievement is not limited by the sojourn in this part of life. This state is an experimental one. We are learning *how* to live. If one cultivates his mind, his character, his higher nature, he is getting out of life its best purposes, and doing the will of his Father who is heaven. This is the essential thing: other matters are accidental and contingent.

The spiritual philosophy of life conceives it in its wholeness from this standpoint. The future is not a system of arbitrary rewards

and retributions, but the natural and inevitable results of the present. Each one creates his future. Its joy or its sorrow is within his own power and option. This conviction makes each day and hour its own responsibility, but its own joy and promise as well. Let one sow to the spirit, and of the spirit reap love, joy, and peace.

The highest quality of communion between the two worlds is that which is purely spiritual, moulding thought and inciting to higher purposes. A new and a larger revelation of the divine laws which govern the development of the spirit began in a crude and humble way with that phenomenon known as the "Rochester rappings." It began with this physical phenomenon appealing to the physical senses. The intercourse has progressed in its nature and quality during its half-century of existence, and will continue to grow finer and more significant just in proportion as the mind grows more receptive to higher truth. No one can receive beyond the degree that he is prepared to recognize. In the relative im-

portance of intercommunication between the two worlds, mere phenomenon is of the least importance. It had its place in arresting attention ; but the scientific investigation now being carried on by the Psychical Society will offer to the world results which appeal to the most intelligent and thoughtful people with convincing persuasion and the invincible logic of truth.

The question has been asked as to whether every person can hold telepathic communion with those in the Unseen. It might, doubtless, be truly answered that every person does, although comparatively few may be conscious of it. Its intelligent consciousness is a question of the development of the spiritual faculties. These may be so trained as to grow more and more sensitive to the higher vibrations, as a musician's ear, by training, is more delicately sensitive to a more extensive range of vibration than is the untrained ear.

One comes back, however, to the one truth that the development of spiritual faculties is based on the moral life, on the simple fidelity

to truth, generosity, and ideal purpose. One very exalted spirit who has given much instruction to the Psychical Society through a recognized medium, wrote:—

“The holding of a narrow, cold, dogmatic creed, in all its rigid, lifeless literalism, cramps the soul, dwarfs its spirituality, and clogs its progress. We call you to a spiritualized religion. We call you from the dead formalism, the lifeless, loveless literalism of the past, to a religion of spiritualized truth, to the lovely symbolism of angel teaching, to the higher planes of spirit, when the material finds no place and the formal dogmatism of the past is forever gone. The Divine aid will minister to all who pray for it.”

Living daily, hourly, in this spirit, the telepathic intercourse with those in the life beyond will be developed to such a degree as to form the familiar intercourse of perpetual companionship. The daily life will become transfigured in this exaltation and joy, and one can but exclaim with Emerson, that mystic seer and poet,—

“And, oh, the wonder of the power,
The deeper meaning of the hour!”

For in this revelation of deeper meaning shall the discords and perplexities of life flee away like shadows. It shall be seen that the spiritual being carries on into the next stage of existence that which he has here transmuted into his experience, and that there is thus the highest incentive to live daily as seeing Him who is invisible, and beholding, as in vision, the Mount of Transfiguration.

THE END.



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